

## Public attitudes toward crime and criminal justice-related topics

Each year, numerous public opinion surveys in the United States focus on criminal justice topics. These surveys are conducted by polling and research organizations as part of general social surveys, or for political campaigns. Other surveys are conducted by government agencies or commissions concerned with specific problems. Selected populations such as high school seniors, college students, or parents, often are the focus of these opinion surveys. Results from this wide variety of opinion polls examining attitudes toward particular social issues are presented in this section.

The initial tables in this section address public perceptions of important problems facing the country, including crime and violence. Included in this series are tables detailing perceptions of the level of crime in neighborhoods, as well as teenagers' views on what they see as important problems for their age group. Concerns about schools, such as the presence of alcohol, drugs, and weapons, also are addressed in this segment of Section 2. Additional tables focus on teenagers' attitudes toward school drug policies, in general, and on removing drugs from schools, in particular.

The next series of tables relates to the confidence people express in the criminal justice system, as a whole, and in the police and the U.S. Supreme Court, specifically. Ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of lawyers and police also are included in this series, as are various measures of police performance and behavior (e.g., treatment of persons of different races, striking a citizen, etc.). Also in this edition of *Sourcebook* are city level data on satisfaction with local police in 12 U.S. cities.

Attitudes toward the level of crime in the country, as well as in the respondent's own area, is the topic of the next series of tables. Information also is presented on feelings of safety, both on the streets and in one's home. Additional tables explore people's fear of being victimized, and some of the precautions taken to prevent becoming a victim of crime. This year's *Sourcebook* offers a new table on public perceptions of factors contributing to violence. In several tables, teenagers respond to questions about drugs and about juveniles being tried as adults. Several other tables describe public attitudes toward spending money on crime and drug problems. Perceptions of the severity of courts and the goals of prisons are included in this section as well. Several tables provide data on attitudes toward the

death penalty and people convicted of murder, as well as those serving life without parole.

Many public opinion surveys have examined the firearms and gun control debate, and the next series of tables reflect attitudes on these issues. A number of tables report on the prevalence of gun ownership, general attitudes toward gun control measures, gun safety, and laws requiring a police permit prior to a gun purchase.

Attitudes about the legalization of marijuana and the harmfulness of drug use have been examined among several populations, including the general public, teenagers, high school seniors, and young adults. The final segment of this section presents a large number of tables drawn from the results of several student surveys. These include students' attitudes about selected social problems, such as the availability and harmfulness of both alcohol and drugs. Annual surveys of high school seniors examine their attitudes and beliefs about social problems, crime and violence, the performance of police and the courts, harmfulness of drug use, and the legalization of marijuana. Attitudes of eighth and tenth graders toward alcohol and drug use also are included. A survey of college freshman mirrors many of the issues explored among high school students, and further asks about the rights of criminal defendants, drug testing, the death penalty, and gun control. Finally, public attitudes on the distribution of pornography, and the legality of homosexual relations, abortion, and doctor-assisted suicide are examined.

When available, survey results are displayed by demographic characteristics of respondents—age, sex, race, income, and occupation—enabling comparisons across important social dimensions. Some questions have been asked repeatedly over time and, whenever possible, these trends are presented.

Two appendices outline survey sampling procedures, methodology, and definitions of terms used in the surveys. Appendix 5 describes procedures used in The Gallup Poll, the Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa Education Poll, the Harris Poll, and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. Also included in Appendix 5 is a description of the General Social Survey (GSS) conducted by the National Opinion Research Center. The GSS is a survey of a national probability sample that has been conducted since 1972. Appendix 6 describes the Monitoring the Future Project, a series of surveys focusing on the behaviors and attitudes of high school seniors and young adults. This project has been conducted annually since 1975 by the Institute for Social Research at the

University of Michigan and provides data from nationwide surveys of high school seniors and young adults. Beginning in 1991, eighth and tenth grade students also have been included in the survey.

Readers should be aware that many factors, including slight differences in the wording of survey questions, may have significant effects on responses. In addition, the margin of error for survey results, presented in Appendix 5, may vary slightly between surveys. Thus, attention to the exact wording of questions and the appropriate estimate of error always should accompany comparisons.

Table 2.1

**Attitudes toward the most important problem facing the country**

United States, 1982-99

Question: "What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?"

	Oct. 15-18, 1982	Oct. 7-10, 1983	Feb. 10-13, 1984	Jan. 25-28, 1985	July 11-14, 1986	Apr. 10-13, 1987	Sept. 9-11, 1988	May 4-7, 1989	Nov. 9-12, 1989	July 19-22, 1990	Mar. 7-10, 1991	Mar. 26-29, 1992	Jan. 8-11, 1993	Jan. 15-17, 1994	Aug. 15-16, 1994	Jan. 16-18, 1995	May 9-12, 1996	Jan. 10-13, 1997	Apr. 17-19, 1998	Sept. 14-15, 1998	May 23-24, 1999
High cost of living; inflation; taxes	18%	12%	10%	11%	4%	5%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	6%	3%	4%	3%	7%	11%	6%	7%	1%	(a)
Unemployment	61	41	29	20	23	13	9	6	3	3	8	25	22	18	6	15	13	NA	5	4	4%
International problems; foreign affairs	2	7	11	NA	NA	NA	4	4	3	NA	1	3	8	3	4	2	4	3	4	6	3
Crime; violence	3	5	4	4	3	3	2	6	3	1	2	5	9	37	52	27	25	23	20	10	17
Fear of war/nuclear war; international tensions	3	14	11	27	22	23	5	2	1	1	2	NA	NA	NA	(a)	(a)	NA	NA	NA	NA	2
Ethics, moral, family decline	3	5	7	2	3	5	1	5	3	2	2	5	7	8	7	6	14	9	16	15	18
Excessive government spending; Federal budget deficit	4	4	12	18	13	11	12	7	7	21	8	8	13	5	3	14	15	8	5	2	1
Dissatisfaction with government	3	2	2	NA	NA	5	NA	2	1	1	NA	8	5	6	5	5	12	7	8	14	5
Economy (general)	11	4	5	6	7	10	12	8	7	7	24	42	35	14	17	10	12	21	6	12	3
Poverty; hunger; homeless	NA	NA	NA	6	6	5	7	10	10	7	10	15	15	11	5	10	7	10	10	6	7
Drugs; drug abuse	NA	NA	NA	2	8	11	11	27	38	18	11	8	6	9	9	6	10	17	12	9	5
Trade deficit; trade relations	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	3	2	1	1	4	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Education; quality of education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	2	2	2	8	8	7	5	5	13	10	13	13	11
Environment; pollution	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	3	5	2	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	2
AIDS	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA	2	(a)	3	2	2	2	1	(a)	1	1	(a)	(a)
Abortion	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	(a)	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1	0	1	1	(a)	(a)
Health care	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	18	20	29	12	10	7	6	6	5
No opinion; don't know	2	4	4	3	3	4	12	7	6	5	6	2	2	2	2	2	7	6	4	8	2

Note: Exact wording of response categories varies across surveys. Multiple responses are possible; the Source records up to three problems per respondent. Some problems mentioned by a small percentage of respondents are not included in the table. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Less than 0.5%.

Source: George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 198, p. 27; Report No. 226, p. 17; Report No. 235, pp. 20, 21; Report No. 252, pp. 28, 29; Report No. 260, pp. 6, 7; Report No. 277, pp. 6, 7; Report No. 285, pp. 4, 5; Report No. 290, p. 6 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll*, Mar. 14, 1991, pp. 2, 3; Apr. 3, 1992, pp. 1, 2; Jan. 30, 1997, p. 2 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 298, p. 14; No. 340, p. 43; No. 352, p. 7; No. 396, p. 34 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990528.asp> [July 20, 1999]; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.2

**Attitudes toward important issues for the government to address**

United States, 1993-99

Question: "What do you think are the two most important issues for the government to address?"

Issue	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Federal deficit	11%	11%	18%	22%	19%	12%	5%
Health care	55	30	16	16	9	11	10
Crime/violence	12	37	16	16	17	13	7
The economy <sup>a</sup>	13	12	10	14	6	9	8
Education	8	10	9	14	14	14	17
Welfare	3	9	12	13	12	8	3
Taxes	11	14	11	11	11	16	9
Employment/jobs	14	10	6	9	6	3	3
Programs for the elderly	3	4	7	6	2	1	1
Domestic/social issues <sup>a</sup>	8	5	5	4	3	3	3
Drugs	3	3	5	4	8	6	4
Abortion	2	2	2	4	3	2	2
Medicare <sup>b</sup>	X	X	14	3	4	5	4
Foreign policy <sup>a</sup>	3	4	4	3	4	5	5
Peace/world peace/ nuclear arms	3	1	2	3	2	3	3
Homelessness <sup>c</sup>	X	X	4	3	4	4	3
(Programs for) the poor	3	7	3	2	2	2	4

Note: The issues mentioned are spontaneous, unprompted replies by the respondents. The numbers indicate the percent of respondents who mentioned the item as one of the top two issues for the government to address. Some issues mentioned by a relatively small percentage of respondents have been omitted. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Non-specific.

<sup>b</sup>Previously coded under "programs for the elderly."

<sup>c</sup>Previously coded under "programs for the poor."

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll*, Apr. 10, 1996, p. 3; June 16, 1997, p. 6; Apr. 17, 1999, p. 8 (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc.). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.3

**Households identifying crime as a neighborhood problem**

By household characteristics, United States, selected years 1985-95

Question: "Is there anything about the neighborhood that bothers you?"

(Percent saying "crime")

Type of household	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995
All households	4.7%	4.8%	6.4%	7.4%	7.4%	7.3%
White	4.0	3.8	5.1	6.0	6.1	6.1
Black	8.5	11.0	15.4	16.5	15.2	14.4
Hispanic <sup>a</sup>	7.7	8.4	11.2	12.1	12.2	11.5
Elderly	3.2	3.1	3.4	4.4	4.3	4.1
<b>Place of residence</b>						
Central city	9.1	9.7	13.1	15.0	14.8	14.5
Suburban	2.9	2.9	3.9	4.6	4.8	4.9
Rural	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.2
<b>Home ownership</b>						
Owner	3.1	2.9	3.6	4.6	4.7	4.7
Renter	7.4	8.0	11.3	12.3	12.3	12.1
<b>Type of structure</b>						
One-unit detached <sup>b</sup>	3.1	2.8	3.7	4.6	4.7	4.8
Multiunit	8.6	9.5	12.8	13.9	13.9	13.5
Number of households (in millions) <sup>c</sup>	86.8	88.8	91.5	91.0	92.8	95.0

Note: These data are from the American Housing Survey, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The survey collects data on many factors related to housing, including residential perceptions of neighborhood quality. These estimates are derived from national data that are collected every other year from a fixed representative sample of 50,000 housing units plus a sample of newly constructed units each year. The Source excludes missing data and those occupied units not considered in a neighborhood, ranging from 1% to 4% of units in subpopulations. The respondent defines the neighborhood.

<sup>a</sup>Includes persons from all races.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes row houses and mobile homes.

<sup>c</sup>The estimates for total number of households reporting they live in a neighborhood in 1991, 1993, and 1995 are based on the 1990 census and are not directly comparable to prior-year estimates that are based on the 1980 census.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Perceptions of Neighborhood Crime, 1995*, Special Report NCJ-165811 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, April 1998), p. 2, Table 1.

Table 2.4

**Households identifying crime as a neighborhood problem**

By type of housing structure and race, United States, selected years 1985-95

Question: "Is there anything about the neighborhood that bothers you?"

(Percent saying "crime")

Type of structure and household	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1995
<b>One-unit detached structures<sup>a</sup></b>						
All households	3.1%	2.8%	3.7%	4.6%	4.7%	4.8%
White	2.8	2.3	3.1	3.9	4.1	4.1
Black	5.9	6.9	9.5	12.1	10.8	10.6
<b>All central city households</b>	6.2	6.2	8.4	10.8	10.5	11.0
White	5.6	5.3	7.3	9.4	9.5	9.9
Black	8.8	10.5	13.8	17.6	15.1	15.6
<b>Number of households (in millions)<sup>b</sup></b>	54.1	55.2	56.9	56.1	57.7	59.2
<b>Multiunit structures</b>						
All households	8.6%	9.5%	12.8%	13.9%	13.9%	13.5%
White	7.6	7.9	10.8	11.8	12.2	12.0
Black	11.9	16.1	21.2	22.3	20.2	19.2
<b>All central city households</b>	12.2	13.5	18.3	19.5	19.3	18.4
White	11.2	11.5	15.7	17.0	17.7	17.2
Black	14.3	19.3	25.6	26.6	24.0	22.1
<b>Number of households (in millions)<sup>b</sup></b>	24.1	23.7	24.4	24.1	24.3	24.4

Note: See Note, table 2.3.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes row houses and mobile homes.<sup>b</sup>The estimates for total number of households reporting they live in a neighborhood in 1991, 1993, and 1995 are based on the 1990 census and are not directly comparable to prior-year estimates that are based on the 1980 census.Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Perceptions of Neighborhood Crime, 1995*, Special Report NCJ-165811 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, April 1998), p. 3.

Table 2.5

**Teenagers' attitudes toward the most important problem facing people their age**United States, 1998<sup>a</sup>

Question: "What is the most important problem facing people your age—that is, the thing which concerns you the most?"

Problem	Teenagers		
	Total	Ages 12 to 14	Ages 15 to 17
Drugs	29%	29%	28%
Social pressures	16	18	14
Doing well in school	8	9	7
Sexual issues	7	4	10
Crime and violence in school	5	6	4
Other crime and violence	4	4	4
Getting into college	3	2	4
Bad parents/getting along with parents/other family problems	2	1	2
Jobs/opportunity	1	1	2
Other	12	9	14
Don't know/refused	14	17	12

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of a nationwide sample of teenagers, ages 12 to 17. The survey was conducted by Luntz Research Companies for the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Randomly generated telephone numbers were pre-screened to determine if a teen in the appropriate age range resided there. In total, 1,000 teens were interviewed during June and July, 1998.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of multiple responses.Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1998 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IV: Teens, Teachers and Principals* [Online], pp. 49, 71. Available: [http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr\\_doc/4760.pdf](http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr_doc/4760.pdf) [Feb. 1, 1999].

Table 2.6

**Teenagers' attitudes toward the biggest problem facing people their age**

By sex and age, United States, 1998

Question: "What do you think is the biggest problem facing people your age today?"

	Total	Sex		Age	
		Male	Female	13 to 15 years	16 and 17 years
Drugs	39%	41%	36%	40%	36%
Peer pressure	15	12	20	16	15
Violence/crime	7	7	7	6	9
Grades/staying in school	5	5	5	3	7
Gangs	3	3	2	3	2
Getting a job	3	3	2	2	4
Pregnancy/abortion	2	1	3	1	3
Sex	2	1	2	1	3
Smoking	2	3	1	3	(a)
Parental pressure	2	1	3	2	3
Quality of education	1	1	1	1	2
Drinking	1	1	1	1	1
AIDS	1	(a)	1	(a)	1
Other	8	9	8	8	8
Don't know/no answer	9	9	8	10	7

Note: These data are from the New York Times/CBS News National Teenagers Survey. Interviews of 1,048 teenagers were conducted Apr. 2-7, 1998. Some problems mentioned by less than 1% of respondents have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

<sup>a</sup>Less than 0.5%.

Source: Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the New York Times Poll/CBS News Poll.

Table 2.7

**Teenagers' attitudes toward the biggest problem where they go to school**

By sex and age, United States, 1998

Question: "What would you say is the biggest problem where you go to school?"

	Total	Sex		Age	
		Male	Female	13 to 15 years	16 and 17 years
Violence	16%	18%	13%	20%	9%
Drugs	14	12	17	14	15
Discipline	9	9	9	8	10
Racism/discrimination	8	8	9	7	10
Peer pressure	7	5	9	7	7
Teachers/administration	7	6	7	5	9
Gangs	3	3	3	4	2
Smoking/chewing tobacco	3	4	3	4	2
Drinking	2	3	1	2	2
Quality of education	2	3	2	2	3
Crowded classrooms	2	2	1	1	2
Truancy	1	1	1	1	2
Pregnancy/abortion	1	1	1	(a)	1
School funding	1	(a)	1	(a)	1
Nothing	4	3	4	4	3
Other	4	4	4	5	3
Not in school	3	3	3	1	6
Don't know/no answer	13	15	12	13	13

Note: See Note, table 2.6. Some problems mentioned by less than 1% of respondents have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

<sup>a</sup>Less than 0.5%.

Source: Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the New York Times Poll/CBS News Poll.

Table 2.8

**Attitudes toward the biggest problems facing public schools**By school status, United States, 1995-98<sup>a</sup>

Question: "What do you think are the biggest problems with which the public schools in this community must deal?"

	National				No children in school				Public school parents				Nonpublic school parents			
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1998	1995	1996	1997	1998
Use/abuse of drugs	7%	16%	14%	10%	7%	17%	14%	10%	7%	14%	14%	12%	8%	12%	9%	8%
Lack of discipline/more control <sup>b</sup>	15	15	15	14	17	16	15	15	11	12	12	9	18	18	22	29
Lack of proper financial support/funding/money <sup>c</sup>	11	13	15	12	10	14	15	13	12	13	14	11	3	7	4	2
Difficulty in getting good teachers/quality teachers	2	3	3	5	2	3	3	6	3	3	4	4	(d)	3	(d)	(d)
Concern about standards/quality of education	4	NA	8	6	4	NA	7	6	4	NA	8	5	4	NA	10	9
Overcrowded/large schools	3	8	8	8	3	6	6	5	5	11	10	11	3	15	17	22
Parents' lack of support/interest	2	NA	NA	NA	2	NA	NA	NA	2	NA	NA	NA	3	NA	NA	NA
Pupils' lack of interest/truancy, poor attitudes	2	5	6	5	2	5	6	4	1	6	6	5	2	4	3	15
Integration/segregation/racial discrimination	2	2	NA	NA	2	2	NA	NA	2	3	NA	NA	(d)	2	NA	NA
Fighting/violence/gangs	9	14	12	15	9	14	12	14	8	15	12	20	8	17	16	10
Lack of family structure/problems of home life	3	4	NA	NA	3	5	NA	NA	1	1	NA	NA	5	1	NA	NA
Crime/vandalism	2	3	NA	NA	2	3	NA	NA	2	1	NA	NA	2	3	NA	NA
Lack of respect for self/others <sup>e</sup>	3	2	NA	NA	3	2	NA	NA	4	1	NA	NA	6	2	NA	NA
There are no problems/none <sup>f</sup>	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	6	7	3	5	2	3	(d)	7

Note: Some problems mentioned by a small percentage of respondents have been omitted. Readers interested responses to this question for 1988 through 1994 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Totals add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

<sup>b</sup>"More control" added in 1997.

<sup>c</sup>"Funding/money" added in 1998.

<sup>d</sup>Less than 0.5%.

<sup>e</sup>"For self/others" added in 1996.

<sup>f</sup>Reworded to "no problems" in 1996 and "none" in 1998.

Source: Stanley M. Elam and Lowell C. Rose, "The 27th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1995), pp. 52, 53; Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1996), p. 49; Lowell C. Rose, Alec M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappa* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97c.htm> [Dec. 31, 1997]; and Lowell C. Rose and Alec M. Gallup, "The 30th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappa* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kp9809-3.htm> [Jan. 5, 1999]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.9

**Attitudes toward the seriousness of problems in local public schools**

United States, 1998

Question: "How serious a problem would you say each of the following is in the public schools in your community? Would you say a very serious problem, fairly serious, not very serious, or not at all serious?"

Problem	Very serious	Fairly serious	Not very serious	Not at all serious	Don't know
Drugs	52%	28%	13%	3%	4%
Discipline	50	26	17	3	4
Smoking	50	26	15	3	6
Alcohol	44	28	18	4	6
Teenage pregnancy	43	28	19	4	6
Fighting	37	27	26	5	5
Gangs	37	20	28	11	4

Note: See Note, table 2.8. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: Lowell C. Rose and Alec M. Gallup, "The 30th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappa* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kp9809-3.htm> [Jan. 5, 1999].

Table 2.10

**Attitudes toward dealing with a drug problem in local public schools**

By school status, United States, 1997

Question: "In your opinion, which is more effective for dealing with a drug problem in the public schools in your community--an educational approach, pointing out the consequences of drug use, or severe penalties for those violating the school drug policy?"

	National	No children in school	Public school parents	Nonpublic school parents
Educational approach	52%	52%	53%	44%
Severe penalties	42	41	43	49
Don't know	6	7	4	7

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: Lowell C. Rose, Alec M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97h.htm> [Dec. 31, 1997]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.11

**Attitudes toward zero-tolerance drug and alcohol and weapon policies in public schools**

By school status, United States, 1997

	"Some public schools have a so-called zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy, which means that possession of any illegal drugs or alcohol by students will result in automatic suspension. Would you favor or oppose such a policy in the public schools in your community?"				"Some public schools have a so-called zero-tolerance weapons policy, which means that students found carrying weapons of any kind in school will be automatically suspended. Would you favor or oppose such a policy in the public schools in your community?"			
	National	No children in school	Public school parents	Nonpublic school parents	National	No children in school	Public school parents	Nonpublic school parents
Favor	86%	84%	89%	93%	93%	92%	95%	91%
Oppose	13	15	10	7	5	6	4	9
Don't know	1	1	1	(a)	2	2	1	(a)

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Less than 0.5%.

Source: Lowell C. Rose, Alec M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll on the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97h.htm> [Dec. 31, 1997]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.12

**Teenagers' attitudes toward how to remove drugs from schools**United States, 1998<sup>a</sup>

Question: "What SHOULD we do to get drugs out of school?"

	Teenagers		
	Total	Ages 12 to 14	Ages 15 to 17
Education/make aware of effects	14%	13%	15%
Crackdown on students/be more strict/harsher penalties	13	12	14
You can't/nothing	12	6	17
Check/search people	10	12	8
Support/prevention programs	9	8	9
More security	6	6	6
Random locker searches	5	6	5
Random drug testing	5	4	5
Watch students more closely/ drug detectives	4	6	2
Better enforcement	3	3	4
Drug dogs	3	3	3
Encourage kids to not want to do drugs	3	2	3
Parental support	3	2	3
Make drugs less available	2	2	2
Check bags	2	4	1
Have alternatives/get students involved	1	2	1
Better role models	1	1	2
Other	4	4	4
Don't know/refused	21	25	18

Note: See [Note, table 2.5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of multiple responses.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1998 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IV: Teens, Teachers and Principals* [Online], pp. 56, 81. Available: [http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr\\_doc/4760.pdf](http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr_doc/4760.pdf) [Feb. 1, 1999].

Table 2.13

**Teenagers' attitudes toward penalty for a student found using or selling drugs**United States, 1998<sup>a</sup>

	"In your opinion, what should happen to a student found using drugs?"			"In your opinion, what should happen to a student found selling drugs?"		
	Total	Ages 12 to 14	Ages 15 to 17	Total	Ages 12 to 14	Ages 15 to 17
Expelled	46%	46%	45%	46%	52%	41%
Arrested	30	34	26	40	42	38
Sent to a counselor	23	25	22	15	14	17
Suspended for 6 days or more	17	17	18	13	14	12
Suspended for 5 days or more	11	7	14	9	6	11
Lost privileges	7	5	8	4	4	4
Given a warning	6	4	6	7	5	9
Other	3	3	4	2	1	3
Don't know/refused	1	1	1	1	1	2

Note: See Note, table 2.5.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of multiple responses.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1998 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse IV: Teens, Teachers and Principals* [Online], pp. 61, 88, 89. Available: [http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr\\_doc/4760.pdf](http://www.casacolumbia.org/usr_doc/4760.pdf) [Feb. 1, 1999].

Table 2.14

**Teenagers' and parents' attitudes toward drug policies**

United States, 1997

Question: "Please tell me if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each of the following measures:"

	Random locker searches at your school for drugs and drug paraphernalia		Drug testing of all students		Drug testing of student athletes		A zero-tolerance policy under which any student caught with drugs would be expelled from school		Removing the criminal penalties for marijuana possession	
	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor
Teenagers	32%	23%	30%	22%	50%	23%	55%	18%	20%	15%
Ages 12 to 14	34	22	35	22	52	23	64	14	23	14
Ages 15 to 17	30	23	25	22	48	23	47	22	17	17
Parents	56	21	25	17	53	26	51	18	13	14

Note: These data are derived from telephone interviews of nationwide samples of teenagers, ages 12 to 17, and parents of teenagers. The survey was conducted by Luntz Research Companies for the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. Randomly generated telephone numbers were pre-screened to determine if a teen in the appropriate age range resided there. Subsequent calls were made to conduct the actual interviews. In total, 1,115 teen interviews and 998 parent interviews were completed. Households in which both a teen and parent were interviewed accounted for 648 teen and 648 parent interviews. Weighting was applied to bring the households in line with ethnic and regional targets, to correct teen distributions on gender and household structure, and to correct parent distributions on gender and marital status.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1997 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse III: Teens and Their Parents, Teachers and Principals* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1997), pp. 62, 63. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

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Table 2.15

**Reported confidence in selected institutions**

United States, 1974-99

Question: "As far as people in charge of running . . . are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

(Percent reporting "a great deal of confidence")

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
The military	33%	24%	23%	27%	29%	29%	28%	28%	31%	35%	45%	32%	36%	35%	33%	32%	43%	47%	50%	57%	39%	43%	47%	37%	44%	54%
Medicine	50	43	42	43	42	30	34	37	32	35	43	39	33	36	40	30	35	NA	29	22	23	26	29	29	38	39
The White House	28	NA	11	31	14	15	18	28	20	23	42	30	19	23	17	20	21	21	16	23	18	13	15	15	20	22
Major educational institutions such as colleges and universities	40	36	31	37	41	33	36	34	30	36	40	35	34	36	34	32	35	21	25	23	25	27	30	27	37	37
The U.S. Supreme Court	40	28	22	29	29	28	27	29	25	33	35	28	32	30	32	15	32	23	30	26	31	32	31	28	37	42
Congress	18	13	9	17	10	18	18	16	13	20	28	16	21	20	15	16	12	9	10	12	8	10	10	11	12	12
Television news	31	35	28	28	35	37	29	24	24	24	28	23	27	29	28	25	27	20	22	23	20	16	21	18	26	23
Organized religion	32	32	24	29	34	20	22	22	20	22	24	21	22	16	17	16	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	24	NA	20	25	27
State governments	NA	NA	16	19	15	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	23	16	19	18	NA	18	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Local governments	NA	NA	21	18	19	NA	NA	NA	NA	18	23	18	21	18	NA	17	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Major companies	21	19	16	20	22	18	16	16	18	18	19	17	16	21	19	16	14	15	11	16	19	21	21	18	21	23
The press	25	26	20	18	23	28	19	16	14	19	18	16	19	19	18	18	18	14	13	15	13	11	14	11	14	15
Law firms	18	16	12	14	18	16	13	NA	NA	12	17	12	14	15	13	NA	NA	NA	11	11	8	9	11	7	11	10
Organized labor	18	14	10	14	15	10	14	12	8	10	12	13	11	11	13	10	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	NA	9	13	15
Executive branch of the Federal Government	28	13	11	23	14	17	17	24	NA	NA	NA	19	18	19	16	17	14	NA	13	15	12	9	12	12	17	17
Wall Street	NA	NA	NA	19	15	NA	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	9	9	12	13	15	13	17	17	18	30

Note: Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., Feb. 3, 1999), pp. 3-5. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.16

**Reported confidence in selected institutions**

United States, selected years 1973-99

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one—a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little."

(Percent saying "a great deal" or "quite a lot")

	1973	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Church or organized religion	66%	68%	64%	65%	64%	62%	66%	57%	61%	59%	52%	56%	56%	53%	54%	57%	57%	56%	59%	58%
Military	NA	58	57	54	50	53	61	63	61	58	63	68	69	68	64	64	66	60	64	68
U.S. Supreme Court	44	49	46	45	46	42	56	54	52	56	46	47	39	44	42	44	45	50	50	49
Banks and banking	NA	NA	NA	60	46	51	51	49	51	49	42	36	30	37	35	43	44	41	40	43
Public schools	58	NA	54	53	42	39	48	49	50	49	43	45	35	39	34	40	38	40	37	36
Congress	42	40	40	34	29	28	39	41	NA	35	32	24	18	18	18	21	20	22	28	26
Newspapers	39	NA	NA	51	35	38	35	37	31	36	NA	39	32	31	29	30	32	35	33	33
Big business	26	34	33	32	20	28	31	28	NA	25	NA	25	22	22	26	21	24	28	30	30
Television news	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	46	35	33	36	34	34	34
Organized labor	30	38	39	36	28	26	28	29	26	26	NA	27	22	26	26	26	25	23	26	28
Police	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52	54	58	60	59	58	57
Criminal justice system	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	17	15	20	19	19	24	23
Presidency	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50	43	38	45	39	49	53	49

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 383 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1997), p. 24; The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990714.asp> [July 20, 1999]; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.17

**Reported confidence in the criminal justice system**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little: the criminal justice system?"

	Great deal/quite a lot	Some	Very little	None <sup>a</sup>
National	23%	40%	34%	3%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	23	38	36	3
Female	22	43	32	2
<u>Race</u>				
White	22	42	33	3
Black	28	31	39	2
Nonwhite <sup>b</sup>	26	31	41	2
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	34	32	33	1
30 to 49 years	21	43	32	4
50 to 64 years	16	46	35	3
50 years and older	17	44	36	2
65 years and older	17	41	38	2
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	23	54	22	1
College graduate	23	39	36	2
Some college	22	40	35	3
No college	22	37	37	3
<u>Income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	23	40	35	2
\$50,000 and over <sup>c</sup>	21	42	34	3
\$30,000 to \$49,999	25	43	29	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	20	42	36	1
Under \$20,000	26	33	38	3
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	21	44	33	2
Suburban area	23	39	34	4
Rural area	23	38	36	2
<u>Region</u>				
East	22	45	29	3
Midwest	21	38	38	2
South	24	38	36	2
West	20	42	34	4
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	25	41	30	3
Democrat	22	45	30	3
Independent	21	37	40	2

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.

<sup>b</sup>Includes black respondents.

<sup>c</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.18

**Reported confidence in the police**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little: the police?"

	Great deal/quite a lot	Some	Very little	None <sup>a</sup>
National	57%	33%	10%	(b)
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	56	33	11	(b)
Female	57	33	10	(b)
<u>Race</u>				
White	59	33	8	(b)
Black	40	34	26	0%
Nonwhite <sup>c</sup>	43	32	24	1
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	55	29	16	0
30 to 49 years	51	38	10	1
50 to 64 years	59	33	8	0
50 years and older	62	32	6	(b)
65 years and older	56	30	4	(b)
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	57	39	4	0
College graduate	50	38	11	1
Some college	58	31	11	(b)
No college	57	32	11	0
<u>Income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	59	32	9	0
\$50,000 and over <sup>d</sup>	58	33	8	1
\$30,000 to \$49,999	57	33	10	0
\$20,000 to \$29,999	53	41	6	0
Under \$20,000	54	32	14	(b)
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	52	34	14	(b)
Suburban area	60	32	8	(b)
Rural area	57	33	10	(b)
<u>Region</u>				
East	54	34	12	0
Midwest	64	27	9	0
South	56	35	9	(b)
West	52	37	10	1
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	67	27	6	0
Democrat	50	38	12	(b)
Independent	54	33	12	1

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.<sup>b</sup>Less than 0.5%.<sup>c</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>d</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.19

**Reported confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one--a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little: the U.S. Supreme Court?"

	Great deal/quite a lot	Some	Very little	None <sup>a</sup>
National	49%	35%	13%	1%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	50	32	16	1
Female	49	37	11	1
<u>Race</u>				
White	51	34	13	(b)
Black	43	40	14	2
Nonwhite <sup>c</sup>	43	39	14	2
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	58	29	12	1
30 to 49 years	48	39	11	(b)
50 to 64 years	47	41	11	(b)
50 years and older	47	34	15	(b)
65 years and older	46	26	21	(b)
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	67	25	8	(b)
College graduate	60	32	6	1
Some college	50	37	11	1
No college	42	37	18	0
<u>Income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	58	31	10	1
\$50,000 and over <sup>d</sup>	55	33	11	1
\$30,000 to \$49,999	47	40	12	(b)
\$20,000 to \$29,999	46	37	15	0
Under \$20,000	44	35	17	1
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	50	35	13	(b)
Suburban area	51	36	11	(b)
Rural area	47	33	17	1
<u>Region</u>				
East	51	37	11	(b)
Midwest	51	33	13	(b)
South	45	38	14	1
West	55	29	13	(b)
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	47	40	10	0
Democrat	58	28	11	1
Independent	46	36	16	1

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.<sup>b</sup>Less than 0.5%.<sup>c</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>d</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.20

**Reported confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1982-98

Question: "I'm going to name some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions (U.S. Supreme Court) are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?"

	1982			1983			1984			1986			1987			1988		
	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
National	31%	53%	12%	27%	55%	14%	33%	51%	12%	30%	52%	14%	36%	50%	10%	35%	50%	11%
<b>Sex</b>																		
Male	32	53	13	31	50	16	40	44	15	36	47	15	41	46	11	39	47	10
Female	30	53	12	24	58	12	29	56	11	25	56	14	33	52	10	31	53	11
<b>Race</b>																		
White	30	54	12	27	55	14	35	50	13	31	53	13	38	47	11	36	49	11
Black/other	31	49	13	26	53	15	25	54	11	24	49	19	26	61	7	26	56	10
<b>Age</b>																		
18 to 20 years	43	47	9	38	49	11	29	52	19	47	42	10	62	24	10	57	37	7
21 to 29 years	33	53	12	33	55	10	45	42	11	38	48	10	41	51	6	43	45	8
30 to 49 years	28	56	14	24	60	15	30	56	12	30	55	14	36	52	9	34	55	8
50 years and older	31	52	12	26	51	16	30	51	13	24	52	17	32	48	13	30	50	14
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																		
College	36	53	10	34	53	12	40	50	8	37	52	9	44	49	6	40	51	8
High school graduate	27	55	14	24	58	15	30	52	15	26	56	15	32	51	12	32	51	13
Less than high school graduate	30	45	11	19	47	19	25	46	17	21	39	27	24	47	18	27	46	12
<b>Income</b>																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Occupation</b>																		
Professional/business	36	53	10	34	52	11	40	49	9	36	52	11	47	45	7	38	52	9
Clerical	29	58	11	26	57	14	24	62	12	25	57	14	33	58	7	32	54	10
Manual	28	52	15	22	57	17	33	48	14	27	51	17	29	52	13	32	50	12
Farmer	38	50	12	41	36	10	45	40	15	36	39	15	35	40	22	33	33	33
<b>Region</b>																		
Northeast	34	49	13	30	54	12	32	51	13	32	52	13	43	48	7	35	53	9
Midwest	30	57	11	30	54	12	30	55	12	30	54	13	32	52	12	33	51	11
South	27	53	15	26	53	17	32	49	14	28	50	16	33	50	12	37	44	12
West	32	53	11	22	60	15	41	48	9	30	54	14	41	48	8	32	58	8
<b>Religion</b>																		
Protestant	29	54	13	27	54	16	33	52	11	28	52	15	35	50	11	35	48	12
Catholic	33	54	10	26	58	12	32	52	13	32	54	11	39	48	9	34	55	9
Jewish	35	43	19	43	45	10	45	45	10	37	55	8	55	35	5	39	61	0
None	30	53	16	30	51	14	36	43	17	33	47	19	33	53	10	38	52	7
<b>Politics</b>																		
Republican	34	50	13	30	53	16	42	47	10	33	51	14	42	48	6	42	49	7
Democrat	30	54	11	27	54	15	34	51	12	29	53	14	34	50	12	33	52	12
Independent	29	54	14	26	57	12	27	54	14	28	52	15	35	50	12	30	50	12

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996			1998		
A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any	A great deal	Only some	Hardly any
34%	50%	11%	35%	48%	13%	38%	48%	13%	31%	52%	13%	30%	50%	16%	28%	50%	17%	31%	50%	14%
38	47	12	36	48	13	44	42	14	34	51	12	34	48	16	33	45	18	34	47	15
32	52	10	34	48	12	33	52	12	28	52	14	27	52	17	24	54	16	28	52	13
36	49	11	37	47	12	38	47	12	32	51	12	30	50	17	30	49	16	33	50	13
26	55	12	27	53	14	34	48	14	20	55	20	29	50	15	23	53	18	24	50	18
44	47	3	39	48	4	32	42	21	38	52	7	32	47	21	38	40	15	52	33	7
40	50	8	38	47	10	50	41	7	32	55	13	37	51	11	30	46	19	35	47	15
34	54	9	36	47	14	36	51	12	32	52	14	30	52	16	26	55	15	29	54	14
31	46	15	32	50	12	33	48	15	28	50	14	27	48	19	29	46	17	30	48	14
42	50	7	44	47	9	45	45	9	36	51	11	36	49	13	33	52	13	36	51	11
29	52	14	29	48	17	32	49	16	24	54	17	26	52	20	24	51	20	26	55	15
26	41	13	21	51	13	23	57	13	27	46	13	19	42	20	22	41	22	26	38	21
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37	52	10	38	48	14	34	51	12	34	54	11
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	28	58	12	31	54	13	27	54	16	31	50	15
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	33	46	17	30	53	15	31	49	16	28	52	14
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	26	51	16	26	46	22	24	49	21	32	45	15
43	51	5	42	48	10	42	47	10	36	52	9	37	48	14	34	50	12	36	53	9
33	50	12	35	48	10	45	45	10	25	57	14	28	54	16	29	52	17	25	56	15
27	52	14	28	49	17	32	50	15	29	49	17	26	52	17	24	49	20	30	45	18
31	19	31	35	53	12	30	60	5	26	58	5	35	38	25	13	42	29	32	42	19
37	45	9	39	43	13	44	39	14	32	50	12	35	47	14	31	49	13	31	54	11
33	55	9	37	48	10	34	51	13	33	52	11	29	50	18	29	51	17	30	49	15
32	48	16	29	53	13	37	48	13	25	55	16	27	51	18	26	49	18	30	47	17
38	52	6	39	44	15	38	51	9	34	48	13	32	51	15	29	51	17	33	53	11
30	54	12	33	50	13	35	48	15	29	52	14	28	51	17	25	51	18	29	51	15
47	40	6	40	42	12	45	44	9	36	50	12	32	51	14	33	48	15	35	48	12
35	41	18	67	33	0	48	43	10	30	50	15	42	46	12	48	44	4	41	47	9
28	54	12	34	44	16	24	64	11	29	56	13	33	47	18	30	45	19	29	51	14
40	52	6	41	48	9	46	43	11	33	54	11	32	49	16	32	51	15	33	50	15
32	51	13	31	48	16	34	50	13	27	52	16	32	48	16	30	51	13	31	50	13
33	46	13	33	48	13	34	50	14	32	50	13	27	53	17	24	49	21	30	50	15

Table 2.21

**Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of various occupations**

By type of occupation, United States, 1997

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: . . .?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low	No opinion
Druggists, pharmacists	16%	53%	27%	3%	0%	1%
Clergy	17	42	31	5	1	4
Medical doctors	10	46	36	5	2	1
College teachers	11	44	35	3	1	6
Dentists	9	45	37	5	2	2
Police	10	39	40	8	2	1
Engineers	9	40	40	3	1	7
Funeral directors	7	29	45	9	2	8
Bankers	4	30	51	11	3	1
Journalists	2	21	53	17	4	3
TV reporters, commentators	4	18	55	17	4	2
Business executives	3	17	55	17	3	5
Local officeholders	3	17	56	17	4	3
Building contractors	3	17	53	18	4	5
Newspaper reporters	2	17	48	24	6	3
Stockbrokers	2	16	54	14	3	11
State officeholders	2	15	53	24	4	2
Real estate agents	3	13	56	20	4	4
Lawyers	3	12	41	31	10	3
Labor union leaders	2	13	41	26	12	6
Senators	2	12	50	27	6	3
Advertising practitioners	2	10	49	26	6	7
Congress members	2	10	49	28	8	3
Insurance salespeople	2	10	47	30	8	3
Car salespeople	2	6	31	40	19	2
Public opinion pollsters	4	19	55	12	2	8

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 387 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1997), p. 23. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.22

**Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of lawyers**

United States, selected years 1976-97

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Lawyers?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low	No opinion
1976	6%	19%	48%	18%	8%	1%
1977	5	21	44	18	8	4
1981	4	21	41	19	8	7
1983	5	19	43	20	9	6
1985	6	21	40	21	9	3
1988	3	15	45	22	10	4
1990	4	18	43	23	9	4
1991	4	18	43	24	10	5
1992	3	15	43	25	11	3
1993	3	13	41	26	13	2
1994	3	14	36	27	15	1
1995	4	12	36	28	17	2
1996	3	14	39	29	14	3
1997	3	12	41	30	10	3

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 279 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1988), p. 18; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 293 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, February 1990), p. 23; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, May 22, 1991), p. 3; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 322 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1992), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 334 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1993), p. 38; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Nov. 10, 1995), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Jan. 2, 1997), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 387 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1997), p. 23; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.23

**Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of lawyers**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Lawyers?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
National	3%	12%	41%	31%	10%
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	4	10	37	31	16
Female	2	13	44	31	6
<b>Race</b>					
White	2	11	40	33	11
Black	9	19	45	14	12
Nonwhite <sup>a</sup>	8	18	44	19	10
<b>Age</b>					
18 to 29 years	4	15	37	33	9
30 to 49 years	3	10	42	32	12
50 to 64 years	2	10	43	30	12
65 years and older	3	15	39	28	8
<b>Education</b>					
College post graduate	4	12	43	29	11
College graduate	0	4	55	30	10
Some college	2	11	38	36	11
No college	4	14	38	28	11
<b>Income</b>					
\$75,000 and over	2	8	47	28	14
\$50,000 and over <sup>b</sup>	2	9	43	32	13
\$30,000 to \$49,999	1	11	44	32	10
\$20,000 to \$29,999	6	14	39	34	5
Under \$20,000	4	15	39	27	11
<b>Community</b>					
Urban area	4	11	44	30	9
Suburban area	3	12	37	32	13
Rural area	2	12	41	31	10
<b>Region</b>					
East	3	11	41	33	9
Midwest	3	13	41	32	8
South	4	12	36	34	12
West	2	11	46	24	13
<b>Politics</b>					
Republican	4	11	37	32	13
Democrat	4	15	44	25	10
Independent	2	9	40	36	9

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>b</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.24

**Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of police**

United States, selected years 1977-97

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Police?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
1977	8%	29%	50%	9%	3%
1981	8	36	41	9	4
1983	7	34	45	7	4
1985	10	37	41	7	3
1988	10	37	39	8	3
1990	9	40	41	7	2
1991	7	36	42	10	3
1992	8	34	42	10	4
1993	10	40	39	7	3
1994	9	37	41	9	3
1995	8	33	44	11	3
1996	10	39	38	8	3
1997	10	39	40	8	2

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 279 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1988), p. 10; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 293 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, February 1990), p. 23; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, May 22, 1991), p. 3; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 322 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1992), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 334 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, July 1993), p. 38; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Nov. 10, 1995), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, Jan. 2, 1997), p. 2; *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 387 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1997), p. 23; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.25

**Respondents' ratings of the honesty and ethical standards of police**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "Please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of people in these different fields--very high, high, average, low, or very low: Police?"

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
National	10%	39%	40%	8%	2%
<b>Sex</b>					
Male	13	40	36	8	2
Female	8	38	43	7	3
<b>Race</b>					
White	11	41	40	6	1
Black	11	20	38	20	11
Nonwhite <sup>a</sup>	9	24	39	19	9
<b>Age</b>					
18 to 29 years	12	34	38	10	5
30 to 49 years	10	41	40	7	2
50 to 64 years	7	37	44	9	2
65 years and older	13	41	37	6	(b)
<b>Education</b>					
College post graduate	3	42	46	5	2
College graduate	10	44	36	5	5
Some college	11	39	42	6	2
No college	12	36	37	11	2
<b>Income</b>					
\$75,000 and over	12	39	42	3	4
\$50,000 and over <sup>c</sup>	13	41	38	5	2
\$30,000 to \$49,999	7	44	38	8	2
\$20,000 to \$29,999	10	40	42	7	1
Under \$20,000	11	32	40	11	5
<b>Community</b>					
Urban area	10	37	39	9	4
Suburban area	13	39	39	7	1
Rural area	8	40	42	8	1
<b>Region</b>					
East	10	35	43	8	3
Midwest	11	46	37	5	1
South	11	34	42	10	2
West	9	42	36	8	3
<b>Politics</b>					
Republican	15	44	33	7	(b)
Democrat	10	36	39	10	4
Independent	7	38	46	6	2

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Includes black respondents.

<sup>b</sup>Less than 0.5%.

<sup>c</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.26

**Respondents' ratings of performance of police in own community**United States, 1999<sup>a</sup>

Question: "How would you rate the police in your community on the following--excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?"

	Excellent	Pretty good	Only fair	Poor	Don't know/ refused
Responding quickly to calls for help and assistance	27%	41%	16%	10%	5%
Not using excessive force	28	40	18	9	5
Being helpful and friendly	32	36	21	9	2
Treating people fairly	25	40	20	11	3
Preventing crime	21	44	24	10	2
Solving crime	17	43	26	11	3

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., Apr. 7, 1999), p. 3. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.27

**Respondents' degree of satisfaction with local police in 12 U.S. cities**By race and city, 1998<sup>a</sup>

Question: "In general, how satisfied are you with the police who serve your neighborhood? Are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?"

City	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Satisfied			Dissatisfied			Race					
		Total	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Total	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	White		Black		Other <sup>b</sup>	
								Satisfied <sup>c</sup>	Dis-satisfied <sup>d</sup>	Satisfied <sup>c</sup>	Dis-satisfied <sup>d</sup>	Satisfied <sup>c</sup>	Dis-satisfied <sup>d</sup>
Total	11,913,071	85%	18%	66%	15%	12%	3%	90%	10%	76%	24%	78%	22%
Chicago, IL	1,901,575	80	16	64	20	15	4	89	11	69	31	67	33
Kansas City, MO	330,761	89	24	65	11	7	4	90	10	86	14	84	16
Knoxville, TN	116,356	89	22	66	11	9	2	91	9	63	37	100	0
Los Angeles, CA	2,557,680	86	20	66	14	12	3	89	11	82	18	80	20
Madison, WI	147,236	97	31	66	3	3	(e)	97	3	97	3	98	2
New York, NY	4,973,711	84	16	67	16	13	4	89	11	77	23	77	23
San Diego, CA	848,531	93	25	68	7	6	1	95	5	89	11	87	13
Savannah, GA	93,110	86	21	65	15	10	4	88	12	81	19	92	8
Spokane, WA	133,288	87	19	68	13	11	2	88	12	79	21	73	27
Springfield, MA	102,609	87	23	64	13	10	3	90	10	76	24	82	18
Tucson, AZ	336,711	87	19	68	13	10	3	88	12	91	9	76	24
Washington, DC	371,503	78	14	63	22	17	6	81	19	75	25	83	17

Note: These data are from a telephone survey of 13,918 individuals age 12 and older conducted February through May 1998 by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Random digit dial techniques were used to contact individuals in a representative sample of approximately 800 households in each city. Questions about the neighborhood and community policing were asked only of residents age 16 and older. Responses of "don't know" and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.

<sup>c</sup>Includes "very satisfied" and "satisfied."<sup>d</sup>Includes "dissatisfied" and "very dissatisfied."<sup>e</sup>Fewer than 10 respondents.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998*, NCJ-173940 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1999), p. 25, Tables 33 and 34. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Detail may not add to total because of rounding.<sup>b</sup>Includes Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, Aleut, and Eskimo.

Table 2.28

**Attitudes toward fair treatment of persons of different races by police in own community**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "Do you think the police in your community treat all races fairly or do they tend to treat one or more of these groups unfairly?"<sup>a</sup>

	Treat all races fairly	Treat one or more groups unfairly	Don't know
National	59%	33%	7%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	60	35	5
Female	58	32	9
<u>Race</u>			
White	67	25	7
Black	30	63	6
Hispanic	48	52	(a)
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	35	62	2
25 to 29 years	57	40	3
30 to 39 years	62	32	6
40 to 49 years	57	35	8
50 to 64 years	63	27	9
65 years and older	76	11	13
<u>Education</u>			
College post graduate	62	31	5
College graduate	62	32	6
Some college	58	33	9
Less than college	58	34	7
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$75,000	63	31	7
\$50,001 to \$75,000	59	37	4
\$35,001 to \$50,000	57	36	6
\$25,001 to \$35,000	59	33	8
\$15,001 to \$25,000	60	33	8
\$15,000 or less	60	32	7
<u>Region</u>			
East	62	33	5
Midwest	67	27	6
South	57	34	8
West	49	41	9
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	69	21	10
Democrat	51	44	5
Independent	57	36	6

Note: The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Less than 0.05%.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.29

**Respondents reporting fear that the police will stop and arrest them when innocent**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "Are you sometimes afraid that the police will stop and arrest you when you are completely innocent, or not?"

	Yes, some-times afraid	No, not afraid
National	22%	78%
<u>Sex</u>		
Male	25	74
Female	18	81
<u>Race</u>		
White	16	84
Black	43	56
Hispanic	28	72
<u>Age</u>		
18 to 24 years	34	66
25 to 29 years	29	71
30 to 39 years	22	78
40 to 49 years	21	78
50 to 64 years	21	78
65 years and older	10	88
<u>Education</u>		
College post graduate	12	88
College graduate	13	86
Some college	24	75
Less than college	24	75
<u>Income</u>		
Over \$75,000	15	85
\$50,001 to \$75,000	17	83
\$35,001 to \$50,000	23	76
\$25,001 to \$35,000	25	74
\$15,001 to \$25,000	22	78
\$15,000 or less	26	73
<u>Region</u>		
East	20	79
Midwest	17	82
South	25	74
West	22	78
<u>Politics</u>		
Republican	15	85
Democrat	27	72
Independent	22	77

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.30

**Attitudes toward a police officer striking an adult male citizen**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-98

Question: "Are there any situations you can imagine in which you would approve of a police-man striking an adult male citizen?"

	1973		1975		1976		1978		1980		1983		1984		1986		1987	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	73%	25%	73%	23%	76%	20%	76%	20%	73%	24%	78%	20%	69%	28%	72%	25%	73%	23%
<b>Sex</b>																		
Male	75	22	77	20	81	17	82	16	80	18	83	15	75	23	80	17	80	17
Female	71	28	70	26	72	22	72	23	68	29	73	23	65	32	66	31	67	27
<b>Race</b>																		
White	77	21	77	20	79	18	80	17	76	21	80	17	73	25	76	22	76	20
Black/other	42	54	46	47	48	44	48	45	45	49	59	37	50	46	49	46	56	35
<b>Age</b>																		
18 to 20 years	55	45	70	27	78	20	67	30	71	29	78	22	71	27	60	38	71	29
21 to 29 years	76	22	75	22	78	20	79	19	76	23	81	17	72	26	74	25	73	24
30 to 49 years	76	23	79	18	79	17	79	18	79	20	81	17	75	24	78	21	77	19
50 years and older	70	26	68	27	73	23	73	21	66	28	72	24	62	34	65	30	68	26
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																		
College	84	14	86	13	85	13	85	12	82	17	87	11	79	20	85	14	83	14
High school graduate	72	27	71	26	76	20	76	21	73	24	75	23	67	31	67	31	70	26
Less than high school graduate	56	38	58	35	62	33	59	33	52	41	56	36	46	46	51	38	48	39
<b>Income</b>																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Occupation</b>																		
Professional/business	83	16	84	14	84	14	86	11	83	15	85	13	76	22	83	15	86	12
Clerical	80	18	77	20	78	18	79	19	78	21	83	16	74	26	70	28	66	29
Manual	66	32	66	30	73	24	72	25	67	29	71	26	64	32	66	30	65	29
Farmer	69	22	63	27	70	28	79	8	70	24	92	3	61	29	63	34	78	15
<b>Region</b>																		
Northeast	68	31	74	24	75	22	74	25	74	24	77	20	65	34	68	28	71	26
Midwest	72	25	77	21	78	18	80	18	70	26	76	22	70	26	72	26	72	24
South	73	25	71	24	74	20	74	21	71	26	77	20	67	30	70	26	71	23
West	79	19	70	26	78	20	80	16	79	18	84	14	76	23	78	21	79	17
<b>Religion</b>																		
Protestant	74	24	73	22	77	19	75	21	74	22	78	19	70	27	73	24	74	22
Catholic	70	27	71	27	74	23	76	21	70	28	75	22	66	32	68	30	68	27
Jewish	71	26	91	4	70	30	72	24	81	16	83	12	67	26	76	18	80	15
None	69	30	76	23	82	16	85	13	70	26	80	18	74	25	76	22	75	21
<b>Politics</b>																		
Republican	76	22	76	19	79	17	76	20	78	20	86	13	74	24	78	19	82	16
Democrat	67	31	67	29	72	24	73	23	67	29	72	26	62	35	68	30	66	29
Independent	79	19	78	19	79	17	80	18	75	22	79	17	73	25	73	24	74	21

Note: The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.  
 For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996		1998	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
73%	23%	70%	24%	70%	25%	66%	30%	73%	22%	71%	26%	67%	29%	66%	30%
77	20	77	18	77	19	71	27	81	16	80	18	75	21	74	23
69	25	66	28	64	30	62	33	68	27	64	32	60	35	59	36
77	19	74	21	73	22	70	26	77	19	76	22	71	25	71	26
51	41	51	40	52	41	44	51	51	40	48	46	47	45	47	47
74	26	69	31	59	36	53	42	69	28	56	38	50	46	52	43
70	26	73	21	74	24	68	30	80	19	70	27	68	28	66	30
79	18	74	20	74	23	72	27	75	22	76	22	70	26	68	28
68	26	65	28	63	28	58	34	68	24	66	30	63	31	63	31
78	19	78	17	78	19	73	24	79	18	79	19	74	23	71	27
73	23	66	30	64	30	64	32	70	26	66	32	62	33	68	28
50	36	53	34	48	33	36	54	55	33	52	40	52	39	47	44
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	83	16	81	18	76	22	73	25
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	23	80	18	71	27	72	24
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	77	20	69	28	68	28	66	31
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	65	29	60	35	57	37	55	39
79	19	80	14	80	18	75	23	79	17	80	18	75	21	71	26
77	19	70	26	73	24	66	30	74	22	67	30	60	36	67	28
69	26	64	30	64	29	60	35	72	24	68	29	66	30	62	33
62	25	75	12	50	38	55	35	47	47	70	20	58	37	68	29
68	29	62	30	68	24	63	34	71	25	65	32	57	38	57	37
70	24	79	19	69	26	66	30	67	27	71	26	69	27	68	29
75	19	71	20	67	27	65	31	77	18	71	26	66	29	67	28
77	20	66	29	76	20	70	26	76	20	78	20	76	21	68	29
74	21	73	22	70	25	67	28	74	21	70	27	69	26	66	30
66	29	66	28	67	27	62	34	67	27	71	25	62	35	62	34
91	4	75	19	71	29	68	32	79	21	76	22	61	37	69	31
78	20	68	25	74	19	65	34	78	21	77	22	70	26	70	24
75	21	76	18	76	19	72	25	78	17	77	20	78	18	73	23
69	26	69	26	64	30	58	37	65	29	66	30	60	36	60	36
75	20	66	26	70	25	68	28	76	20	71	26	66	30	64	30

Table 2.31

**Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances**

United States, selected years 1973-98

Question: "Would you approve of a policeman striking a citizen who. . ."

	Was attacking the policeman with his fists?		Was attempting to escape from custody?		Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman?		Was being questioned in a murder case?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1973	97%	3%	87%	12%	22%	76%	8%	90%
1975	98	2	86	11	19	77	8	90
1976	94	5	78	18	20	77	8	90
1978	93	6	75	22	18	80	8	89
1980	94	4	76	20	14	84	8	90
1983	92	7	75	21	15	83	9	89
1984	92	6	73	23	12	86	9	89
1986	94	5	72	24	14	85	9	90
1987	92	7	77	18	11	86	10	87
1988	92	6	76	19	12	86	8	89
1989	94	5	76	20	11	87	8	90
1990	92	6	74	21	12	84	11	86
1991	90	8	69	26	9	89	6	92
1993	92	6	73	23	7	91	7	90
1994	93	6	75	21	9	90	7	92
1996	91	7	68	27	7	92	5	94
1998	90	8	68	27	7	92	6	93

Note: In 1973 and 1975 these data were based on a subsample of respondents who answered "yes" or "not sure" to the question presented in table 2.30. Since 1976, all survey respondents were asked the above questions. The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.32

**Attitudes toward a police officer striking a citizen under certain circumstances**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1998

Question: "Would you approve of a policeman striking a citizen who . . ."

	Was attacking the policeman with his fists?		Was attempting to escape from custody?		Had said vulgar and obscene things to the policeman?		Was being questioned in a murder case?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	90%	8%	68%	27%	7%	92%	6%	93%
<u>Sex</u>								
Male	93	6	75	22	8	91	6	93
Female	87	10	62	32	6	93	5	92
<u>Race</u>								
White	92	6	73	23	7	91	5	93
Black/other	83	15	50	43	4	94	9	90
<u>Age</u>								
18 to 20 years	92	7	69	28	5	93	13	84
21 to 29 years	89	9	62	34	5	93	5	94
30 to 49 years	89	8	67	27	5	94	5	94
50 years and older	91	7	71	24	9	89	6	92
<u>Education</u>								
College	91	7	68	27	5	93	4	95
High school graduate	91	7	71	24	6	92	6	92
Less than high school graduate	85	12	62	32	11	87	9	87
<u>Income</u>								
\$50,000 and over	92	6	71	24	6	94	4	95
\$30,000 to \$49,999	93	6	72	23	6	93	6	93
\$20,000 to \$29,999	90	7	74	23	4	93	4	94
Under \$20,000	84	12	58	36	8	89	7	90
<u>Occupation</u>								
Professional/business	91	7	69	27	5	94	5	94
Clerical	90	7	66	26	5	94	4	95
Manual	90	8	70	26	8	90	7	92
Farmer	87	13	73	23	10	83	7	93
<u>Region</u>								
Northeast	87	9	59	33	6	92	5	93
Midwest	90	8	70	26	5	94	6	93
South	90	8	70	26	7	91	6	92
West	92	6	70	25	8	91	6	93
<u>Religion</u>								
Protestant	89	8	69	27	6	92	5	93
Catholic	92	6	68	28	7	92	6	92
Jewish	97	3	81	12	6	91	6	88
None	89	8	64	29	6	92	6	93
<u>Politics</u>								
Republican	94	5	78	18	8	91	6	93
Democrat	87	11	62	34	6	92	5	93
Independent	90	7	66	28	6	92	6	92

Note: The "not sure" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data file.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.33

**Attitudes toward level of crime in the United States**

United States, selected years 1989-98

Question: "Is there more crime in the U.S. than there was a year ago, or less?"

	More	Less	Same <sup>a</sup>	No opinion
1989	84%	5%	5%	6%
1990	84	3	7	6
1992	89	3	4	4
1993	87	4	5	4
1996	71	15	8	6
1997	64	25	6	5
1998	52	35	8	5

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc. *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/indicators/indcrime.asp> [July 20, 1999].

Table 2.34

**Attitudes toward level of crime in the United States**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1998

Question: "Is there more crime in the U.S. than there was a year ago, or less?"

	More	Less	Same <sup>a</sup>	No opinion
National	52%	35%	8%	5%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	42	44	7	7
Female	61	26	8	5
<u>Race</u>				
White	53	34	8	5
Black	47	41	4	8
Nonwhite <sup>b</sup>	47	40	6	7
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	60	31	5	4
30 to 49 years	49	38	8	5
50 to 64 years	50	38	7	5
50 years and older	50	34	10	6
65 years and older	51	29	12	8
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	34	48	14	4
College graduate	41	44	8	7
Some college	52	37	5	6
No college	60	27	8	5
<u>Income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	39	45	11	5
\$50,000 and over <sup>c</sup>	40	46	10	4
\$30,000 to \$49,999	52	37	5	6
\$20,000 to \$29,999	58	25	9	8
Under \$20,000	63	26	7	4
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	50	36	8	6
Suburban area	48	39	8	5
Rural area	62	26	6	6
<u>Region</u>				
East	41	45	9	5
Midwest	53	35	8	4
South	59	28	6	7
West	52	33	8	7
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	53	33	8	6
Democrat	52	36	6	6
Independent	51	36	8	5

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.<sup>b</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>c</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc.

Table 2.35

**Attitudes toward level of crime in own area**United States, selected years 1972-98<sup>a</sup>

Question: "Is there more crime in your area than there was a year ago, or less?"

	More	Less	Same <sup>b</sup>	No opinion
1972	51%	10%	27%	12%
1975	50	12	29	9
1977	43	17	32	8
1981	54	8	29	9
1983	37	17	36	10
January 1989	47	21	27	5
June 1989	53	18	22	7
1990	51	18	24	8
1992	54	19	23	4
1996	46	24	25	5
1997	46	32	20	2
1998	31	48	16	5

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.<sup>b</sup>Response volunteered.Source: The Gallup Organization, Inc. *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/indicators/indcrime.asp> [July 20, 1999].

Table 2.36

**Attitudes toward level of crime in own area**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1998

Question: "Is there more crime in your area than there was a year ago, or less?"

	More	Less	Same <sup>a</sup>	No opinion
National	31%	48%	16%	5%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	27	51	18	4
Female	34	46	15	5
<u>Race</u>				
White	30	48	17	5
Black	33	54	12	1
Nonwhite <sup>b</sup>	32	52	12	4
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	32	47	12	9
30 to 49 years	31	48	16	5
50 to 64 years	26	51	20	3
50 years and older	29	50	18	3
65 years and older	32	50	16	2
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	21	48	24	7
College graduate	26	51	18	5
Some college	28	52	15	5
No college	37	46	14	3
<u>Income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	25	50	23	2
\$50,000 and over <sup>c</sup>	24	54	19	3
\$30,000 to \$49,999	25	53	16	6
\$20,000 to \$29,999	35	48	10	7
Under \$20,000	44	42	11	3
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	35	46	15	4
Suburban area	22	55	17	6
Rural area	43	38	15	4
<u>Region</u>				
East	24	59	14	3
Midwest	33	46	17	4
South	32	48	16	4
West	34	41	17	8
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	32	48	16	4
Democrat	32	51	14	3
Independent	29	47	18	6

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.<sup>b</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>c</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc.

Table 2.37

**Respondents reporting fear of walking alone and feeling unsafe at home at night**

United States, selected years 1965-97

Question: "Is there any area near where you live--that is, within a mile--where you would be afraid to walk alone at night? How about when you're at home at night--do you feel safe and secure, or not?"

	Afraid to walk alone at night	Feel unsafe at home at night
1965	34%	NA
1967	31	NA
1972	42	17%
1975	45	20
1977	45	15
1981	45	16
1983	45	16
1989	43	10
1990	40	10
1992	44	11
1993	43	NA
1996	39	9
1997	38	9

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 318, pp. 51, 52; No. 339, p. 20; No. 371, p. 37 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.38

**Respondents reporting whether they feel afraid to walk alone at night in their own neighborhood**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-98

Question: "Is there any area right around here--that is, within a mile--where you would be afraid to walk alone at night?"

	1973		1974		1976		1977		1980		1982		1984		1985		1987	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
National	41%	59%	45%	55%	44%	56%	45%	54%	43%	56%	47%	53%	42%	57%	40%	59%	38%	51%
<u>Sex</u>																		
Male	20	80	24	76	23	77	23	76	21	79	28	72	19	81	21	78	17	83
Female	59	40	63	36	61	39	63	37	60	39	60	39	57	41	56	43	55	44
<u>Race</u>																		
White	39	61	43	57	44	56	43	57	42	58	45	55	39	60	38	62	36	63
Black/other	54	45	60	40	48	51	59	40	52	47	61	39	54	43	60	39	50	50
<u>Age</u>																		
18 to 20 years	33	67	43	55	45	55	45	55	45	54	28	72	27	73	24	76	38	62
21 to 29 years	40	59	44	56	40	60	39	60	41	59	47	52	39	59	40	59	40	59
30 to 49 years	40	60	40	59	40	60	41	59	39	60	43	57	37	62	35	64	34	66
50 years and older	43	57	50	50	49	51	51	48	47	52	50	49	49	49	46	53	43	56
<u>Education<sup>a</sup></u>																		
College	35	64	42	57	36	64	41	58	42	58	49	50	40	59	36	63	38	62
High school graduate	44	55	44	55	47	52	46	53	44	55	46	54	42	57	41	58	39	61
Less than high school graduate	41	58	51	49	48	52	47	52	42	57	43	56	46	51	51	48	39	59
<u>Income</u>																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<u>Occupation</u>																		
Professional/business	38	62	39	60	40	60	40	60	42	58	50	50	40	59	36	63	37	63
Clerical	55	44	59	40	56	43	60	39	53	46	57	43	51	48	46	53	47	53
Manual	41	58	40	60	40	60	41	59	38	62	39	60	39	60	41	58	36	63
Farmer	26	72	28	72	14	84	17	83	15	82	8	92	13	87	19	81	18	82
<u>Region</u>																		
Northeast	47	52	47	53	54	46	53	47	47	53	46	54	44	55	44	55	34	66
Midwest	40	60	39	60	34	66	36	63	33	66	40	60	35	64	30	68	37	63
South	39	61	47	53	42	58	47	52	44	55	50	50	48	51	44	56	42	58
West	38	61	48	51	50	50	46	54	52	48	53	47	39	61	44	55	40	60
<u>Religion</u>																		
Protestant	41	59	43	56	43	57	45	55	43	56	45	54	44	55	41	58	37	63
Catholic	43	56	50	48	46	54	45	54	45	55	49	51	40	58	39	60	43	56
Jewish	44	56	50	50	63	37	60	40	50	50	81	19	59	41	53	47	47	53
None	32	68	38	62	43	57	40	59	38	62	40	60	22	77	36	64	36	64
<u>Politics</u>																		
Republican	35	65	48	52	42	57	44	56	41	57	43	57	42	56	36	63	35	65
Democrat	46	53	45	54	49	50	48	52	46	54	51	49	46	52	47	52	40	60
Independent	39	61	42	58	39	61	41	58	41	59	44	56	37	62	35	63	39	60

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.  
For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996		1998	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
40%	59%	40%	60%	41%	58%	43%	56%	43%	57%	47%	52%	42%	57%	41%	57%
16	83	19	80	19	81	24	76	26	73	30	69	26	74	26	74
56	42	55	45	58	41	58	41	55	44	60	39	55	44	52	46
39	60	38	62	39	60	41	59	40	60	45	54	40	59	40	59
45	53	52	46	50	48	56	44	58	42	56	43	51	48	47	51
27	73	47	53	43	57	52	48	31	66	44	56	45	55	45	55
38	61	42	58	33	65	40	60	40	60	49	50	39	60	41	57
32	67	33	67	38	62	39	61	38	62	43	57	40	59	39	60
51	48	45	54	48	51	49	49	51	48	51	47	45	54	44	54
36	62	40	60	39	60	43	56	42	58	45	54	40	59	42	57
41	58	38	62	41	58	42	58	44	56	48	51	43	56	37	62
51	49	45	55	51	48	50	50	45	55	53	47	44	54	46	51
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	39	61	41	59	34	66	31	68
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37	63	42	58	42	58	38	62
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	43	57	46	53	43	57	42	58
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51	49	54	45	48	50	51	46
37	62	41	59	36	63	39	61	44	56	44	55	39	60	39	60
54	46	49	51	56	42	51	48	43	57	58	41	51	47	54	44
35	64	33	67	38	61	41	59	42	58	42	57	40	60	34	64
18	82	20	80	28	72	24	76	24	76	36	64	27	70	36	64
41	57	35	65	40	59	36	62	44	56	44	56	41	58	41	57
33	66	39	61	36	64	42	57	34	66	39	60	39	60	35	64
44	56	42	58	46	52	43	57	46	54	54	45	44	55	44	54
43	57	41	59	41	58	51	49	48	52	46	53	42	57	44	56
42	57	41	58	43	56	45	54	44	56	48	52	44	55	40	58
38	60	38	62	38	61	36	63	41	59	45	54	36	63	43	56
71	24	53	47	61	39	67	33	65	35	58	39	51	46	65	35
22	77	34	66	32	64	39	61	33	66	41	58	34	65	40	58
41	59	37	62	41	58	36	63	42	58	45	54	36	64	36	63
44	56	46	54	47	52	48	51	48	51	51	49	51	48	46	53
35	63	33	67	35	64	44	56	39	61	44	55	38	61	40	58

Table 2.39

**Respondents reporting fear of crime in own neighborhood in 12 U.S. cities**By city, 1998<sup>a</sup>

Question: "How fearful are you about crime in your neighborhood? Are you very fearful, somewhat fearful, not very fearful, or not at all fearful?"

City	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Percent of residents age 16 or older					
		Fearful			Not fearful		
		Total	Very fearful	Somewhat fearful	Total	Not very fearful	Not at all fearful
Total	12,597,016	42%	7%	35%	58%	37%	22%
Chicago, IL	1,985,495	48	9	39	52	34	18
Kansas City, MO	343,285	33	4	28	67	43	25
Knoxville, TN	122,814	30	3	27	70	41	29
Los Angeles, CA	2,761,158	44	8	36	56	36	20
Madison, WI	152,269	20	1	19	80	46	34
New York, NY	5,236,728	42	7	35	58	36	22
San Diego, CA	907,779	30	3	27	71	44	27
Savannah, GA	97,239	33	5	28	68	39	29
Spokane, WA	142,194	32	3	30	68	39	28
Springfield, MA	105,135	45	9	36	55	34	20
Tucson, AZ	353,347	40	5	35	60	37	23
Washington, DC	389,573	48	7	40	52	34	18

Note: See Note, table 2.27. Responses of "don't know" and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis.

<sup>a</sup>Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998*, NCJ-173940 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1999), p. 12, Table 9.

Table 2.40

**Respondents reporting fear of becoming a victim of street crime and self-protective measures taken in 12 U.S. cities**

By city, 1998

Questions: "Are you afraid of becoming a victim of street crime in the city?"

If yes: "Here are some things people do to avoid becoming a victim of crime that takes place outside the home. In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things--you carry a self-defense warning device such as a whistle or alarm, you carry a self-defense weapon (includes knife, gun, club, mace, stun-gun), you no longer take certain routes or go into certain areas in your neighborhood, you avoid going out at night, you avoid going out alone, you took a self-defense class, you attended community meetings in your neighborhood, you made an effort to get to know the police in your neighborhood, you planned to relocate to outside your neighborhood?"<sup>a</sup>

	Residents age 16 or older		Residents age 16 or older reporting fear of street crime	Percent of residents fearful of street crime who:									
		Percent reporting fear of street crime		Carried a self-defense warning device	Carried a self-defense weapon	Avoided certain routes and areas	Avoided going out at night	Avoided going out alone	Took a self-defense class	Attended community meetings	Got to know police in neighborhood	Planned to re-locate	Took other preventive measures
City	Estimated number												
Total	12,446,470	52%	6,509,867	10%	14%	44%	49%	48%	11%	18%	26%	25%	10%
Chicago, IL	1,971,332	53	1,039,490	13	22	48	51	48	9	25	34	29	9
Kansas City, MO	337,128	41	138,885	14	23	37	45	48	11	19	29	25	14
Knoxville, TN	121,693	35	42,575	16	23	40	46	46	9	22	31	17	12
Los Angeles, CA	2,689,497	60	1,622,136	10	17	45	52	47	14	17	24	26	8
Madison, WI	149,992	25	37,427	9	11	44	39	40	13	13	22	18	14
New York, NY	5,217,814	53	2,784,226	8	8	44	48	47	9	15	24	24	10
San Diego, CA	885,545	42	371,845	11	14	33	43	48	13	21	24	15	11
Savannah, GA	96,103	43	40,929	12	29	40	51	54	10	23	37	23	8
Spokane, WA	139,116	31	43,489	14	23	41	46	48	12	20	25	19	13
Springfield, MA	102,943	47	47,863	11	14	46	53	59	10	14	34	29	9
Tucson, AZ	347,141	41	141,634	14	28	40	48	49	16	21	28	25	11
Washington, DC	388,166	51	199,368	12	14	51	48	49	8	26	31	20	13

Note: See Note, table 2.27. Responses of "don't know" and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

<sup>a</sup>Asked only of those residents who said they were afraid of becoming a victim of street crime.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998*, NCJ-173940 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1999), p. 19, Table 22 and p. 20. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.41

**Respondents reporting action taken to protect against crime in their home in 12 U.S. cities**

By city, 1998

Question: "In the past 12 months, have you done any of these things to protect yourself from crime in the home, in a direct response to you or your family's fear of crime--you go to neighborhood watch meetings, you and your neighbors have agreed to watch out for each other's safety, you've installed a security system for your home, you've asked the police department to do a home security check, you have guard dogs at home, you've engraved security identification numbers on all your belongings, you've installed extra locks on windows and/or doors, you keep weapons inside the home, you've added outside automatic lighting (e.g. timers)?"

		Percent of all residents who:									
City	Estimated number of residents age 16 or older	Attended watch meetings	Watched out for other's safety	Installed security system	Requested police security check	Owned guard dog	Placed ID numbers on property	Installed extra locks	Kept self-defense weapon in home	Added automatic lighting	Took other precautions
Total	12,737,662	11%	61%	18%	5%	15%	17%	41%	14%	33%	18%
Chicago, IL	2,009,342	17	65	18	6	16	18	41	13	36	17
Kansas City, MO	344,390	13	72	18	7	19	23	40	27	42	18
Knoxville, TN	123,672	12	72	17	5	21	24	36	39	40	15
Los Angeles, CA	2,782,894	11	66	21	5	25	21	42	20	43	19
Madison, WI	152,702	5	51	4	2	10	14	23	13	27	18
New York, NY	5,315,324	9	54	17	4	9	14	40	8	24	19
San Diego, CA	910,508	10	68	14	4	15	20	44	17	39	15
Savannah, GA	98,389	16	73	19	10	24	23	43	34	44	17
Spokane, WA	143,515	14	75	12	3	25	30	44	30	49	19
Springfield, MA	105,571	7	67	21	8	18	18	42	14	48	15
Tucson, AZ	355,691	15	70	15	5	29	25	49	31	44	19
Washington, DC	395,664	15	64	15	7	6	14	32	7	30	22

Note: See Note, table 2.27. Responses of "don't know" and refusals to answer are excluded from analysis. Totals exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998*, NCJ-173940 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1999), p. 21.

Table 2.42

**Reported precautions taken to protect against crime**

United States, 1997-98

Question: "Which of the following precautions have you yourself taken during the last 12 months to protect yourself from crime? Have you. . .?"

	Percent taking precaution
Locked your doors	94.3%
Acted more aware or cautious	78.9
Stayed in at night	36.1
Kept a gun in the house	32.8
Kept a dog	29.9
Joined or participated in a neighborhood watch program	21.2
Used a home burglary system or security system	19.5
Carried mace or some other self-protection chemical	18.6
Obtained self-defense training or education	17.8
Carried a gun when away from home	11.0

Note: These data are from the National Gun Policy Survey (NGPS) conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago in collaboration with the Center for Gun Policy and Research of Johns Hopkins University with funding from the Joyce Foundation of Chicago. The NGPS was conducted in 1996, 1997-98, and 1998. The surveys were national random-digit dial telephone surveys of adults living in households with phones. Data were collected Sept. 13-Nov. 11, 1996, Nov. 8, 1997-Jan. 27, 1998, and Sept. 10-Nov. 15, 1998. Analysis used a post-stratification weight that adjusted for age, gender, race, education, and region according to U.S. Bureau of the Census figures.

Source: Tom W. Smith, *1997-98 National Gun Policy Survey of the National Opinion Research Center: Research Findings* (Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago, 1998), p. 36. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.43

**Attitudes toward contributions to violence in society**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "Our society is often described as being more inclined toward violence than some other societies. Do you think that... contribute(s) a lot, contribute(s) a little, or don't/doesn't contribute at all to this violence?"

	Local TV news reports		Television		Movies		Video games		Lack of adult supervision of children		Easy availability of handguns	
	Contributes a lot	Contributes a little	Contributes a lot	Contributes a little	Contributes a lot	Contributes a little	Contributes a lot	Contributes a little	Contributes a lot	Contributes a little	Contributes a lot	Contributes a little
National	39%	42%	58%	34%	57%	35%	47%	35%	90%	8%	65%	26%
<b>Sex</b>												
Male	36	45	49	42	50	41	40	38	89	10	53	35
Female	43	39	66	27	64	29	54	31	91	7	75	17
<b>Race, ethnicity</b>												
White	39	44	60	34	58	34	47	36	91	7	60	29
Black	42	36	58	31	55	36	53	28	86	13	85	14
Hispanic	52	25	56	32	47	36	40	31	90	9	73	21
<b>Age</b>												
18 to 24 years	25	55	36	44	32	47	24	37	80	11	66	23
25 to 29 years	31	51	46	47	45	47	40	42	89	11	64	29
30 to 39 years	40	45	54	39	56	36	39	42	94	6	64	32
40 to 49 years	47	34	63	28	60	32	48	35	91	8	60	29
50 to 64 years	39	40	64	34	63	33	60	30	93	7	69	20
65 years and older	46	34	77	19	73	21	66	21	88	8	66	20
<b>Education</b>												
College post graduate	25	55	55	40	57	36	45	42	89	11	72	21
College graduate	35	46	57	35	59	32	40	43	91	8	62	25
Some college	40	42	56	36	54	38	45	39	91	8	61	30
Less than college	42	39	60	32	58	34	50	29	89	8	66	24
<b>Income</b>												
Over \$75,000	37	43	57	37	57	35	37	45	92	7	63	28
\$50,001 to \$75,000	35	47	56	38	57	35	47	37	96	4	65	24
\$35,001 to \$50,000	42	36	61	27	60	30	49	30	93	6	61	28
\$25,001 to \$35,000	41	50	53	41	55	39	43	41	88	9	54	39
\$15,001 to \$25,000	42	40	51	40	48	43	40	33	92	6	70	21
\$15,000 or less	41	38	66	29	63	29	55	32	85	12	74	19
<b>Region</b>												
East	40	43	60	31	57	34	43	41	87	11	71	23
Midwest	41	41	60	32	59	33	50	33	89	9	59	28
South	37	40	58	35	58	35	51	30	92	7	66	24
West	41	46	53	38	53	38	42	37	91	6	60	28
<b>Politics</b>												
Republican	44	40	66	29	65	32	57	33	95	5	56	31
Democrat	39	38	58	35	55	37	47	33	88	11	78	18
Independent	34	48	56	35	58	32	43	37	93	5	56	33

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.

Table 2.44

**Teenagers' attitudes toward the biggest reason teenagers do not use drugs**

United States, 1997

Question: "What is the biggest reason teenagers your age DO NOT use illegal drugs?"

Reason	Teenagers		
	Total	Ages 12 to 14	Ages 15 to 17
Afraid of permanent damage	23%	25%	20%
Parents or school officials finding out	19	18	20
Morally wrong	11	10	11
Keep them from doing well in school	10	10	9
Afraid of their parents	7	5	8
Against the law	7	10	4
Don't know where to buy	2	3	2
They do use drugs	2	1	3
Don't know/no response	12	12	12

Note: See Note, table 2.14.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1997 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse III: Teens and Their Parents, Teachers and Principals* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1997), p. 61. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.45

**Teenagers reporting attitudes and experiences related to drugs and alcohol**

United States, 1997

(Percent responding in the affirmative)

	Teenagers	
	12 years old	17 years old
Would report someone selling illegal drugs at school	78%	26%
Would report someone using illegal drugs at school	75	24
Can buy marijuana within a day	16	65
Know someone who sells illegal drugs	10	52
Half or more friends drink	5	46
Know someone fairly well who has used acid, cocaine, or heroin	15	50
Teachers have great deal of influence over teen drug use	38	8
Half or more friends use marijuana	4	34
Have personally witnessed the sale of illegal drugs in neighborhood	6	33
Favor drug testing students at school	67	47
Favor a zero-tolerance policy at school	82	65
Favor drug testing student athletes at school	72	57
Favor random locker searches in school	57	51
Drugs are a teen's biggest problem	38	41

Note: See Note, table 2.14.

Source: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *Back to School 1997 - The CASA National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse III: Teens and Their Parents, Teachers and Principals* (New York: National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1997), p. 40. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.46

**Teenagers' attitudes toward juveniles who commit violent crimes being tried as adults**

By sex and age, United States, 1998

Question: "Do you think that juveniles who are 13 years old who are accused of committing a violent crime should be tried in the same court as adult offenders, or in juvenile court?"

	Adult court	Juvenile court	Depends
National	56%	37%	6%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	59	35	6
Female	54	39	7
<b>Age</b>			
13 to 15 years	56	37	7
16 and 17 years	59	36	6

Note: See Note, table 2.6. The "don't know/no answer" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the New York Times Poll/CBS News Poll.

Table 2.47

**Respondents indicating too little is spent on selected problems in this country**

United States, selected years 1973-98

Question: "We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of the problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (problem) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (problem)?"

(Percent responding "too little")

	Halting the rising crime rate	Dealing with drug addiction	Improving the Nation's education system	Improving the conditions of blacks	Welfare
1973	64%	65%	49%	32%	20%
1974	66	60	50	31	22
1975	65	55	49	27	23
1976	65	58	50	27	13
1977	65	55	48	25	12
1978	64	55	52	24	13
1981	69	59	52	24	13
1982	71	57	56	28	20
1983	67	60	60	29	21
1984	68	63	64	35	24
1985	63	62	60	31	18
1986	64	58	60	34	22
1987	68	65	62	35	21
1988	72	71	66	38	24
1989	73	71	69	36	24
1990	70	64	71	37	22
1991	65	58	67	34	22
1993	71	60	67	36	16
1994	75	60	71	31	13
1996	67	58	68	32	15
1998	61	58	70	34	16

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.48

**Attitudes toward the level of spending to halt the rising crime rate**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1983-98

Question: "We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (halting the rising crime rate) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (halting the rising crime rate)?"

	1983			1984			1985			1986			1987			1988		
	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
National	67%	24%	5%	68%	25%	4%	63%	28%	5%	64%	27%	5%	68%	24%	4%	68%	23%	4%
<u>Sex</u>																		
Male	64	28	6	64	28	6	61	29	7	59	32	6	66	26	4	67	25	4
Female	69	22	4	71	21	3	66	26	4	67	24	4	70	22	4	69	22	4
<u>Race</u>																		
White	66	26	4	67	26	5	63	28	5	63	28	5	68	24	4	67	24	4
Black/other	75	14	7	74	19	4	62	26	9	68	20	4	70	23	5	73	19	6
<u>Age</u>																		
18 to 20 years	51	44	0	67	25	8	80	20	0	75	20	0	68	21	5	63	26	0
21 to 29 years	70	24	4	68	28	3	67	29	2	65	29	4	65	27	5	63	32	2
30 to 49 years	67	25	4	68	24	5	62	30	5	62	30	4	65	26	5	74	19	4
50 years and older	65	22	7	67	24	5	62	26	8	64	24	6	74	19	3	66	22	6
<u>Education</u> <sup>a</sup>																		
College	65	27	4	68	28	3	61	30	4	62	30	3	62	30	5	71	24	2
High school graduate	70	23	4	69	21	6	67	26	5	66	25	6	73	19	4	68	24	3
Less than high school graduate	57	19	13	63	28	2	52	30	15	60	24	6	74	19	3	61	17	12
<u>Income</u>																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<u>Occupation</u>																		
Professional/business	66	26	5	62	32	5	63	28	4	60	32	3	62	29	4	68	25	4
Clerical	67	26	3	76	20	2	68	23	5	68	23	5	61	36	3	66	25	5
Manual	67	23	6	68	23	6	62	28	7	65	23	7	75	16	5	70	22	2
Farmer	64	28	0	64	36	0	46	46	4	68	32	0	76	18	0	70	20	0
<u>Region</u>																		
Northeast	68	22	6	75	18	6	60	28	6	63	30	3	63	28	7	70	22	3
Midwest	66	26	3	70	25	2	62	29	6	63	27	4	73	20	3	63	28	3
South	67	22	5	65	26	4	67	24	4	66	22	7	68	22	4	72	20	5
West	65	26	6	62	29	7	60	32	6	62	33	3	67	27	4	67	24	5
<u>Religion</u>																		
Protestant	68	23	5	68	24	4	63	29	6	64	26	4	70	22	5	66	24	4
Catholic	66	25	4	70	24	4	66	24	5	66	27	3	66	30	2	72	21	3
Jewish	70	16	7	67	33	0	76	6	12	52	39	9	60	40	0	94	6	0
None	59	31	5	56	31	11	52	37	2	54	28	14	64	19	7	64	29	4
<u>Politics</u>																		
Republican	67	25	5	63	29	4	62	29	6	61	32	3	63	30	3	67	26	5
Democrat	70	22	5	72	23	3	66	27	4	70	23	4	74	19	4	72	21	4
Independent	64	25	5	68	23	6	61	29	6	59	29	6	64	26	6	67	22	3

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996			1998		
Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
72%	20%	5%	70%	22%	4%	65%	27%	5%	71%	20%	5%	75%	16%	6%	67%	23%	7%	61%	28%	7%
70	20	7	70	22	5	58	33	6	65	26	7	72	19	7	64	26	8	57	31	10
74	19	3	70	22	3	69	23	4	76	16	4	78	14	6	70	21	6	64	26	5
71	21	5	68	23	4	63	29	4	70	22	4	74	16	7	65	24	8	59	30	7
81	13	3	78	14	6	75	17	6	76	15	8	80	14	3	76	19	4	70	22	6
67	29	0	64	24	8	56	44	0	67	24	0	82	15	3	76	13	5	67	24	7
72	20	6	72	24	1	63	26	6	78	17	4	84	12	3	71	24	4	62	32	4
71	20	5	69	22	5	61	32	5	71	22	5	74	19	6	69	23	7	59	29	8
74	18	4	70	20	4	71	22	4	67	21	6	72	15	8	62	24	8	62	27	7
72	21	4	71	23	3	58	32	6	72	23	4	74	18	6	66	25	7	57	32	7
73	19	5	70	20	5	70	25	3	73	17	6	77	14	6	71	21	5	65	25	6
73	16	6	58	29	6	70	15	9	58	25	9	72	14	8	66	19	8	68	22	8
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	21	2	72	20	7	64	27	8	55	34	7
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	75	19	4	76	17	6	67	24	7	60	29	8
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	17	5	79	15	4	71	20	6	71	22	6
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	68	21	6	76	13	6	69	22	6	64	26	6
72	19	5	66	26	3	58	32	7	68	25	5	73	20	5	64	26	8	57	31	8
80	18	0	74	19	2	69	26	2	76	16	4	77	12	7	69	23	7	65	30	4
70	22	6	70	20	6	66	26	5	72	19	5	78	13	6	71	20	5	63	26	8
77	8	15	57	21	14	76	18	6	53	20	27	48	31	17	57	24	10	69	23	8
73	20	3	70	25	3	67	30	2	72	21	3	76	17	4	64	27	7	58	34	5
70	24	4	63	28	2	67	27	4	71	22	2	76	18	3	70	23	4	60	28	8
76	16	4	75	16	5	66	24	7	71	17	7	74	14	8	68	20	8	66	24	7
69	20	8	69	18	7	56	31	5	68	24	6	75	16	7	66	23	8	55	31	8
74	20	4	71	21	4	66	25	5	70	20	5	75	16	6	67	23	7	65	27	6
72	21	5	67	25	4	66	30	3	76	20	2	79	14	6	68	23	6	62	30	6
91	9	0	71	18	12	56	33	6	77	18	0	75	18	4	67	26	0	58	38	0
57	22	12	67	28	2	58	36	4	65	24	10	69	22	9	61	26	9	50	33	11
72	24	3	65	27	6	62	30	6	68	25	3	70	19	8	63	24	10	56	34	8
80	12	5	70	23	2	71	24	3	75	18	5	79	14	4	68	24	4	67	22	6
63	25	7	76	17	4	62	27	6	71	18	6	76	16	5	69	22	7	61	30	5

Table 2.49

**Attitudes toward the level of spending to deal with drug addiction**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1983-98

Question: "We are faced with many problems in this country, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount. First (dealing with drug addiction) are we spending too much, too little, or about the right amount on (dealing with drug addiction)?"

	1983			1984			1985			1986			1987			1988		
	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
National	60%	30%	5%	63%	27%	6%	62%	28%	5%	58%	32%	6%	65%	28%	4%	68%	24%	4%
<b>Sex</b>																		
Male	60	29	7	62	27	7	61	27	8	55	36	7	62	31	4	72	21	5
Female	59	30	4	64	28	4	62	30	2	60	29	5	68	26	4	66	27	3
<b>Race</b>																		
White	59	30	5	63	28	5	62	28	5	57	32	6	66	28	4	67	25	4
Black/other	62	25	7	65	24	9	59	30	9	66	27	5	60	28	6	75	20	5
<b>Age</b>																		
18 to 20 years	56	42	0	58	42	0	60	40	0	50	40	10	58	26	10	50	40	5
21 to 29 years	56	35	6	59	35	4	62	29	6	53	42	4	57	40	2	57	34	7
30 to 49 years	61	30	5	67	24	6	64	29	5	59	33	6	65	29	4	73	22	2
50 years and older	61	25	6	62	25	8	61	26	6	60	24	7	70	22	6	71	20	4
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																		
College	57	33	6	63	30	4	59	32	5	54	39	5	59	36	4	70	25	4
High school graduate	61	30	5	64	27	6	67	25	5	61	28	7	69	23	4	67	26	3
Less than high school graduate	60	19	13	61	22	12	49	31	11	58	23	7	71	19	5	68	17	8
<b>Income</b>																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Occupation</b>																		
Professional/business	55	34	7	62	30	5	59	31	5	54	37	6	63	31	5	68	25	4
Clerical	60	32	4	63	32	3	61	32	3	62	30	2	61	34	5	64	29	3
Manual	60	28	6	65	23	7	64	25	7	60	28	8	67	26	4	72	22	4
Farmer	80	18	0	64	27	9	50	38	8	63	32	5	65	24	12	90	10	0
<b>Region</b>																		
Northeast	58	31	6	70	23	6	66	25	6	54	34	4	71	26	2	71	23	5
Midwest	57	34	5	62	30	4	61	29	5	61	30	5	61	32	4	68	27	2
South	66	24	4	64	25	6	62	26	6	58	30	8	66	26	5	66	24	4
West	56	31	8	56	33	6	59	35	4	58	34	7	62	30	6	70	21	6
<b>Religion</b>																		
Protestant	60	29	5	61	28	6	64	28	4	60	29	7	67	26	4	68	24	4
Catholic	62	30	5	69	25	5	62	29	6	55	37	4	64	32	3	71	24	3
Jewish	52	36	7	78	22	0	65	18	6	52	35	4	60	20	20	67	33	0
None	49	34	8	56	33	8	49	38	6	54	33	7	51	37	7	64	23	9
<b>Politics</b>																		
Republican	57	32	6	57	30	8	58	31	5	52	37	7	58	38	3	68	26	4
Democrat	65	26	4	64	28	5	64	27	5	62	29	6	74	20	4	70	24	4
Independent	55	32	6	67	24	4	63	27	6	58	30	6	57	32	6	67	24	4

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996			1998		
Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much
71%	19%	6%	64%	26%	7%	58%	32%	7%	60%	27%	8%	60%	26%	9%	58%	27%	11%	58%	28%	9%
74	15	7	60	28	8	48	41	8	55	32	9	57	28	11	58	26	12	56	28	12
68	22	6	67	24	5	64	26	7	64	23	7	62	25	7	58	27	10	60	28	7
69	20	6	63	27	6	54	34	8	58	29	8	57	28	10	55	29	12	56	29	10
80	11	6	68	20	7	72	19	4	73	19	7	73	17	5	71	18	8	66	23	6
67	33	0	68	24	8	69	31	0	62	33	5	58	33	6	66	26	3	42	44	9
69	22	7	66	28	4	57	34	7	61	32	4	66	28	3	60	31	6	53	33	8
72	18	6	66	26	5	58	32	8	60	28	8	58	30	8	57	28	13	62	25	10
71	18	7	61	26	9	56	30	8	60	24	10	60	20	12	58	23	12	58	28	9
74	19	4	64	29	6	52	36	8	56	32	8	55	32	9	55	30	12	58	28	10
69	19	8	67	22	7	60	31	7	65	23	6	66	22	7	61	26	10	56	30	8
65	20	12	50	28	13	72	16	6	58	18	18	56	17	15	64	19	10	62	23	11
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	55	31	9	58	30	10	53	31	14	57	32	8
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	62	28	7	56	32	8	57	30	11	58	30	10
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	66	26	7	68	24	8	64	26	8	61	24	10
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	62	25	8	62	21	9	61	24	9	60	26	9
73	18	6	62	30	6	53	34	11	54	34	9	55	30	10	53	29	14	55	32	9
67	23	4	68	26	3	61	28	6	66	20	9	61	28	7	58	26	13	61	26	9
71	18	7	63	24	9	56	34	7	64	25	7	65	22	8	62	25	8	58	26	11
77	8	15	71	14	14	53	35	0	50	36	14	52	38	7	48	19	14	77	15	8
69	20	4	58	29	8	56	34	7	67	21	8	61	25	8	57	28	12	59	30	8
73	18	6	63	28	7	57	35	6	58	30	6	59	31	7	61	25	10	59	27	8
71	18	7	71	23	4	64	25	8	61	26	10	62	23	10	57	26	12	68	20	12
70	21	7	61	25	9	48	38	8	55	32	6	56	28	9	58	28	10	53	23	16
72	18	7	67	25	6	60	29	6	60	26	8	62	25	8	60	26	10	55	31	10
69	23	3	58	30	8	55	36	6	60	30	10	58	28	9	60	26	10	59	28	10
91	9	0	65	29	0	48	28	22	54	27	9	64	29	7	59	26	11	60	28	9
59	21	16	57	26	12	42	42	1	56	31	10	53	29	13	52	28	15	58	25	8
69	23	5	60	32	7	51	37	10	50	34	12	54	31	9	49	32	16	54	34	10
80	12	5	64	25	6	66	23	6	70	23	4	67	22	7	68	22	7	64	25	7
61	26	9	69	22	6	55	35	6	58	27	8	58	28	9	57	27	11	57	27	10

Table 2.50

**Attitudes toward severity of courts in own area**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1983-98

Question: "In general, do you think the courts in this area deal too harshly or not harshly enough with criminals?"

	1983			1984			1985			1986			1987			1988		
	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right
National	4%	86%	6%	3%	82%	11%	3%	84%	9%	3%	85%	8%	3%	79%	12%	4%	82%	10%
<u>Sex</u>																		
Male	4	84	8	5	80	12	4	84	10	4	84	8	4	78	14	5	79	13
Female	3	86	6	2	83	10	3	85	8	3	86	8	3	80	11	3	84	8
<u>Race</u>																		
White	3	87	6	3	84	10	3	85	9	2	87	8	2	81	12	3	83	10
Black/other	10	74	8	6	71	16	5	80	8	9	77	9	7	70	14	8	73	11
<u>Age</u>																		
18 to 20 years	4	87	7	7	73	11	6	78	14	8	79	8	0	76	17	8	84	8
21 to 29 years	4	85	6	6	78	12	6	79	10	5	81	9	4	78	9	8	77	10
30 to 49 years	3	86	8	3	83	11	3	85	9	3	86	8	4	78	13	3	82	11
50 years and older	3	86	6	6	84	11	2	87	8	2	88	7	2	82	12	2	83	9
<u>Education</u> <sup>a</sup>																		
College	4	82	8	2	82	11	3	83	11	2	84	9	3	77	14	3	78	13
High school graduate	4	89	5	4	82	10	4	86	7	3	88	7	3	84	9	4	85	7
Less than high school graduate	3	81	7	2	79	14	4	81	10	4	81	9	5	71	18	3	82	8
<u>Income</u>																		
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<u>Occupation</u>																		
Professional/business	2	84	7	2	83	11	2	84	11	1	88	8	2	80	13	3	83	10
Clerical	2	92	4	2	86	9	2	90	6	4	88	7	2	81	12	3	84	9
Manual	6	83	8	4	80	11	5	83	8	4	83	9	5	78	11	4	81	10
Farmer	3	87	5	3	87	10	3	89	5	3	83	6	2	82	12	8	79	8
<u>Region</u>																		
Northeast	2	88	7	3	82	11	2	86	8	3	88	6	3	82	10	6	83	9
Midwest	2	87	5	4	82	11	3	85	9	3	87	7	4	80	10	4	80	11
South	2	85	6	3	80	11	4	82	11	4	82	10	4	78	14	3	83	10
West	4	81	9	2	83	11	4	84	8	3	85	8	3	79	12	5	80	8
<u>Religion</u>																		
Protestant	3	86	6	2	82	12	3	84	10	3	85	8	3	80	12	4	83	9
Catholic	3	87	6	4	82	10	3	87	8	2	88	6	2	81	12	3	86	9
Jewish	2	86	9	0	89	0	3	78	6	8	90	3	0	80	20	3	73	17
None	5	74	12	7	72	13	6	76	10	4	72	14	7	70	7	11	64	18
<u>Politics</u>																		
Republican	2	90	5	2	88	9	2	88	8	2	87	8	2	86	10	2	85	9
Democrat	4	84	7	4	80	11	3	84	10	3	88	6	4	78	13	5	80	10
Independent	4	84	7	3	80	12	5	82	8	3	82	10	4	76	12	4	80	11

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. The "about right" response was volunteered. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1989			1990			1991			1993			1994			1996			1998		
Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right	Too harshly	Not harshly enough	About right
3%	84%	9%	3%	83%	9%	4%	80%	11%	3%	81%	10%	3%	85%	8%	5%	78%	11%	6%	74%	13%
4	79	12	3	82	11	5	78	12	5	81	10	3	83	9	5	78	11	7	72	15
1	87	6	4	83	8	3	81	11	2	82	10	2	87	6	4	78	10	6	76	12
2	83	10	3	84	9	3	80	12	2	82	10	2	86	8	3	79	11	4	75	13
4	87	3	8	77	8	10	76	8	9	76	11	5	82	8	11	72	10	12	71	12
10	83	8	10	80	5	3	70	20	16	74	7	7	70	14	11	75	5	12	65	14
2	86	8	5	80	9	8	77	9	2	86	8	4	81	9	6	76	10	10	71	11
3	83	9	4	81	10	4	80	11	4	81	9	2	87	7	5	79	11	7	75	12
2	84	9	2	86	8	3	81	12	2	81	11	2	86	7	3	78	11	4	76	15
2	81	10	4	82	10	4	78	12	3	80	11	2	84	10	5	76	12	6	72	15
3	86	8	4	83	9	5	82	9	4	84	8	4	87	6	3	82	9	5	78	12
3	82	8	3	86	6	2	78	17	5	78	9	3	86	6	6	77	9	9	74	11
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	81	10	2	84	9	4	78	12	3	78	13
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	85	10	2	87	8	4	82	10	5	76	13
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	86	7	2	87	7	4	76	13	6	77	11
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	78	11	4	84	7	6	76	10	10	70	13
2	82	11	3	82	11	3	78	11	2	80	12	2	83	10	3	78	11	5	74	14
1	87	7	4	84	8	3	80	12	3	83	8	2	88	6	5	81	9	5	78	11
4	84	8	3	84	8	5	82	11	5	82	9	3	86	6	5	77	11	7	75	13
0	86	9	0	85	15	0	89	8	3	94	3	5	81	10	4	81	8	7	76	16
2	86	5	4	83	10	4	83	8	2	82	11	3	86	6	6	76	12	5	76	13
3	81	12	4	80	10	3	78	12	4	79	11	2	84	8	5	75	13	6	74	13
3	86	8	3	85	8	5	82	10	4	84	8	2	86	8	4	81	9	7	76	11
3	80	11	4	82	9	4	73	16	4	80	10	3	84	9	4	77	11	6	69	17
2	85	9	3	85	8	4	81	10	3	82	9	2	87	7	4	80	10	6	76	12
3	83	9	4	84	8	2	80	13	3	82	9	3	85	7	5	79	11	5	77	12
0	96	0	0	82	15	0	81	9	0	81	12	2	79	10	3	76	9	0	72	18
7	72	9	1	74	16	8	72	14	3	77	14	3	76	12	8	70	10	10	62	20
1	91	6	2	87	8	2	82	11	3	85	8	2	88	7	4	84	10	3	81	12
3	83	10	4	82	9	5	79	12	4	79	12	3	85	8	5	75	13	7	75	13
4	77	10	5	80	10	5	79	10	4	81	9	3	84	8	5	76	9	8	71	14

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Table 2.51

**Attitudes toward the most important goal of prison**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "Once people who commit crimes are in prison, which of the following do you think should be the most important goal of prison?"

	Rehabilitation	Punishment	Crime prevention/ deterrence
National	48.4%	14.6%	33.1%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	48.6	16.8	30.5
Female	48.2	12.5	35.5
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>			
White	47.7	16.1	31.9
Black	56.4	11.8	30.9
Hispanic	42.3	7.7	42.3
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	50.7	17.6	29.6
25 to 39 years	47.5	14.3	33.5
40 to 59 years	49.1	13.6	33.2
60 years and older	46.3	16.5	33.5
<u>Education</u>			
College graduate	54.9	11.5	28.5
Some college	50.9	14.5	32.4
High school graduate	40.4	17.1	38.3
Less than high school graduate	47.6	15.3	31.5
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$60,000	53.3	15.7	26.2
\$30,000 to \$60,000	49.3	11.7	36.0
\$15,000 to \$29,999	47.7	15.4	34.4
Less than \$15,000	47.1	18.6	30.0
<u>Community</u>			
Urban	54.2	8.9	31.5
Suburban	46.7	13.9	34.1
Small city	46.1	17.8	33.9
Rural/small town	48.0	16.1	32.8
<u>Region</u>			
Northeast	52.0	17.1	27.4
Midwest	49.6	14.3	34.6
South	44.2	14.7	35.7
West	51.0	13.3	30.9
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	43.3	14.9	39.0
Democrat	53.8	13.5	30.0
Independent/other	47.5	17.0	31.5

Note: The National Opinion Survey on Crime and Justice-1996 was designed and commissioned by the College of Criminal Justice's Survey Research Program at Sam Houston State University. The data were collected by the Public Policy Research Institute of Texas A & M University through telephone interviews conducted from May 16 to June 9, 1996. A total of 1,085 interviews were conducted from a stratified random sample of all working telephone numbers in the United States. The data presented are weighted estimates adjusted according to U.S. Bureau of the Census racial/ethnic group and gender population figures for 1990. The "other" racial category is comprised of a small number of respondents and therefore was omitted. The "other," "don't know," and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.52

**Attitudes toward the penalty for murder**United States, selected years 1985-99<sup>a</sup>

Question: "What do you think should be the penalty for murder--the death penalty, or life imprisonment with absolutely no possibility of parole?"

	Death penalty	Life imprisonment without possibility of parole	No opinion <sup>b</sup>
1985	56%	34%	10%
1986	55	35	10
1991	53	35	11
1992	50	37	13
1993	59	29	12
1997	61	29	10
1999	56	38	6

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

<sup>b</sup>Includes volunteered responses such as "other," "neither," and "depends."

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 383 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, August 1997), p. 34; and The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990224.asp> [July 20, 1999]. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.53

**Attitudes toward the death penalty**

United States, selected years 1965-99

Question: "Do you believe in capital punishment, that is, the death penalty, or are you opposed to it?"

	Believe in it	Opposed to it	Not sure/ refused
1965	38%	47%	15%
1969	48	38	14
1970	47	42	11
1973	59	31	10
1976	67	25	8
1983	68	27	5
1997	75	22	3
1999	71	21	8

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Poll* (Los Angeles: Creators Syndicate, Inc., July 28, 1999), p. 3. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.54

**Attitudes toward the death penalty**By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999<sup>a</sup>

Question: "Do you believe in capital punishment, that is, the death penalty, or are you opposed to it?"

	Believe in it	Opposed to it	Not sure/ refused
National	71%	21%	8%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	75	20	5
Female	66	23	11
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>			
White	77	15	8
Black	39	51	10
Hispanic	65	32	3
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	59	33	9
25 to 29 years	69	22	10
30 to 39 years	71	21	8
40 to 49 years	73	17	9
50 to 64 years	78	18	4
65 years and older	71	22	7
<u>Education</u>			
College post graduate	59	34	6
College graduate	74	20	5
Some college	71	23	6
Less than college	72	19	9
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$75,000	75	18	7
\$50,001 to \$75,000	72	21	7
\$35,001 to \$50,000	74	21	5
\$25,001 to \$35,000	72	21	7
\$15,001 to \$25,000	68	25	7
\$15,000 or less	68	20	13
<u>Region</u>			
East	67	28	5
Midwest	70	20	9
South	74	17	9
West	71	23	7
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	81	12	8
Democrat	64	28	8
Independent	75	19	6

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.55

**Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder**By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996<sup>a</sup>

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"

	Yes	No	Don't know/ refused
National	73.4%	19.9%	6.7%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	81.7	13.7	4.6
Female	65.6	25.7	8.7
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>			
White	77.2	16.5	6.3
Black	58.6	32.4	9.0
Hispanic	61.0	33.8	5.2
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	70.4	26.8	2.8
25 to 39 years	70.6	23.4	6.0
40 to 59 years	77.0	14.1	8.9
60 years and older	73.0	20.2	6.7
<u>Education</u>			
College graduate	67.2	26.4	6.4
Some college	74.5	18.5	7.1
High school graduate	80.5	14.5	5.0
Less than high school graduate	67.2	21.3	11.5
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$60,000	74.1	19.7	6.1
\$30,000 to \$60,000	78.8	16.6	4.6
\$15,000 to \$29,999	71.0	20.7	8.3
Less than \$15,000	65.0	30.0	5.0
<u>Community</u>			
Urban	65.3	28.7	6.0
Suburban	76.7	15.3	8.0
Small city	71.8	21.0	7.2
Rural/small town	75.0	19.0	6.0
<u>Region</u>			
Northeast	67.6	26.7	5.7
Midwest	75.5	15.0	9.5
South	72.2	21.6	6.2
West	77.1	17.7	5.2
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	81.0	14.1	4.9
Democrat	68.0	26.4	5.6
Independent/other	72.8	18.5	8.7

Note: See Note, table 2.51.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.56

**Attitudes toward the death penalty if murderers were given sentence of life without parole**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1996

Question: "If you knew that murderers would be given a true life sentence without the possibility of parole, would you continue to favor the death penalty?"

	Yes	No	Don't know
National	75.7%	20.1%	3.9%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	81.6	15.6	2.8
Female	68.8	25.3	5.2
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>			
White	77.5	18.2	3.8
Black	61.5	35.4	3.1
Hispanic	74.5	21.3	4.3
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	74.0	24.0	2.0
25 to 39 years	77.6	16.9	4.8
40 to 59 years	71.8	23.8	4.1
60 years and older	81.7	14.2	4.2
<u>Education</u>			
College graduate	75.9	18.1	6.0
Some college	80.1	17.4	2.5
High school graduate	72.2	23.1	3.7
Less than high school graduate	74.4	22.0	3.7
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$60,000	77.5	20.1	2.4
\$30,000 to \$60,000	75.2	21.0	3.4
\$15,000 to \$29,999	76.2	17.4	5.2
Less than \$15,000	71.4	23.1	5.5
<u>Community</u>			
Urban	75.2	18.3	6.4
Suburban	77.4	19.5	3.2
Small city	72.3	23.8	3.8
Rural/small town	75.9	19.3	3.9
<u>Region</u>			
Northeast	73.1	22.7	3.4
Midwest	79.0	16.6	3.4
South	74.3	21.4	4.3
West	76.0	19.8	4.2
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	79.4	17.4	3.2
Democrat	69.3	25.5	5.2
Independent/other	75.1	20.4	4.0

Note: See Note, table 2.51. This question was asked only of the respondents who answered "yes" to the question in table 2.55. The "refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by the Survey Research Program, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University.

Table 2.57

**Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1977-98

Question: "Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"

	1977		1978		1980		1982		1983		1984		1985		1986	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
National	67%	26%	66%	28%	67%	27%	74%	20%	73%	22%	70%	24%	76%	19%	71%	23%
<b>Sex</b>																
Male	75	22	74	24	75	21	80	16	80	16	77	19	80	17	79	17
Female	61	30	61	31	61	32	69	24	68	27	66	27	72	22	66	28
<b>Race</b>																
White	70	24	69	25	70	24	77	18	76	19	75	20	79	17	75	20
Black/other	46	47	44	48	40	51	51	42	49	44	46	46	53	35	49	43
<b>Age</b>																
18 to 20 years	69	30	63	33	70	27	68	26	64	29	68	27	69	29	68	24
21 to 29 years	62	31	64	31	66	31	74	20	74	22	76	19	75	20	72	23
30 to 49 years	67	27	67	28	69	26	74	21	76	19	70	24	76	18	70	27
50 years and older	70	23	68	25	66	25	74	20	71	25	67	26	76	20	74	20
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																
College	66	29	66	29	67	30	71	21	75	22	73	22	73	22	72	23
High school graduate	69	24	68	26	71	23	78	17	75	20	71	23	78	17	73	23
Less than high school graduate	65	29	60	31	56	33	64	26	61	29	59	33	72	21	64	26
<b>Income</b>																
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Occupation</b>																
Professional/business	64	28	68	28	68	28	72	23	73	23	75	20	76	19	76	21
Clerical	64	26	72	23	69	26	79	17	78	18	71	23	76	19	70	25
Manual	71	25	65	28	68	26	73	21	71	23	69	25	76	19	69	25
Farmer	74	20	76	20	71	15	77	15	85	10	61	39	76	22	83	17
<b>Region</b>																
Northeast	64	31	67	28	68	26	74	22	70	25	74	20	74	21	70	26
Midwest	68	25	69	24	66	26	72	21	75	21	65	28	73	20	69	26
South	64	28	64	30	66	28	74	21	70	25	68	27	76	19	67	26
West	77	20	64	31	70	25	76	18	79	16	78	16	79	17	83	13
<b>Religion</b>																
Protestant	67	26	67	27	67	26	73	21	74	22	70	24	76	19	72	23
Catholic	70	25	68	27	71	23	76	20	72	22	72	23	78	19	69	26
Jewish	66	26	79	21	75	22	73	19	67	26	85	4	62	31	79	16
None	64	34	58	38	54	39	73	16	72	26	68	26	75	20	73	24
<b>Politics</b>																
Republican	74	21	73	23	77	18	79	16	85	13	80	16	83	13	80	15
Democrat	67	27	63	31	63	31	71	24	67	28	64	30	70	24	66	30
Independent	64	29	66	27	66	28	73	20	72	22	70	23	75	19	72	23

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996		1998	
Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
70%	24%	71%	22%	74%	20%	74%	19%	72%	22%	72%	21%	74%	20%	71%	22%	68%	25%
73	22	77	18	81	16	79	18	77	19	78	16	79	17	79	17	74	20
67	26	66	26	69	24	71	21	67	25	67	24	71	22	65	25	63	28
74	21	76	18	77	18	78	16	75	19	75	18	78	16	75	18	72	20
46	43	46	44	57	36	58	36	53	37	54	38	56	34	54	35	49	42
64	36	61	35	69	25	66	34	60	33	70	23	73	21	70	22	60	37
69	27	73	24	71	24	79	16	74	23	69	26	72	21	72	22	69	25
74	21	72	21	76	20	74	21	71	22	73	20	75	20	71	22	69	24
66	26	70	22	74	19	74	18	71	21	73	20	75	18	71	21	66	25
70	26	71	23	72	22	73	21	69	25	69	24	73	21	69	24	67	26
73	20	73	20	77	18	77	18	74	20	75	18	77	17	76	17	71	21
54	38	59	27	69	24	70	21	72	21	71	18	67	25	68	23	63	27
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	73	22	77	18	75	20	72	21
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	74	18	76	18	74	18	70	22
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	81	14	75	19	72	24	68	24
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	25	71	22	64	25	60	31
72	25	72	21	75	19	72	20	67	25	70	23	75	20	70	22	68	25
74	19	72	21	73	21	81	14	73	22	72	21	74	19	73	20	68	24
68	24	71	24	74	21	74	22	75	20	74	19	75	19	72	21	68	24
65	28	67	29	91	4	78	7	81	11	74	21	74	18	72	20	71	20
72	23	66	26	72	19	75	20	71	23	65	26	70	24	66	26	62	28
67	26	70	24	72	22	76	20	70	24	72	18	72	20	72	22	70	24
67	26	72	21	75	21	72	20	71	22	75	19	76	19	72	20	69	23
76	19	76	17	76	19	76	16	76	20	72	24	78	16	74	19	68	24
70	24	72	22	75	20	75	19	72	22	74	20	75	18	72	20	68	24
70	24	73	21	73	20	76	18	75	21	68	22	75	19	70	23	68	25
80	10	63	23	87	13	74	15	53	34	70	21	72	26	63	28	72	20
65	28	67	26	71	24	72	24	65	28	72	23	73	20	69	22	64	26
83	14	81	12	82	14	83	12	84	13	81	13	84	12	85	12	77	17
61	32	62	32	68	26	68	24	63	29	64	30	65	28	61	30	62	31
69	24	72	20	73	21	74	21	69	23	71	20	76	17	70	21	67	23

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Table 2.58

**Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder**United States, selected years 1953-99<sup>a</sup>

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?"

	Yes, in favor	No, not in favor	No opinion <sup>b</sup>
1953	68%	25%	7%
1956	53	34	13
1957	47	34	18
1960	53	36	11
1965	45	43	12
1966	42	47	11
1967	54	38	8
1969	51	40	9
1971	49	40	11
1972 <sup>c</sup>	50	41	9
1972 <sup>d</sup>	57	32	11
1976	66	26	8
1978	62	27	11
1981	66	25	9
1985	72	20	8
1988	79	16	5
1991	76	18	6
1994	80	16	4
1995	77	13	10
1999	71	22	7

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.<sup>b</sup>May include other response categories such as "depends" or "refused."<sup>c</sup>Mar. 3-5.<sup>d</sup>Nov. 10-13.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 357 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, June 1995), p. 25; and The Gallup Organization, Inc., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990224.asp> [July 20, 1999]. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.59

**Attitudes toward the death penalty for persons convicted of murder**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "Are you in favor of the death penalty for a person convicted of murder?"

	Yes, in favor	No, not in favor	Depends
National	71%	22%	5%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	75	20	4
Female	66	25	6
<b>Race</b>			
White	73	20	5
Black	51	45	4
Nonwhite <sup>a</sup>	58	37	5
<b>Age</b>			
18 to 29 years	73	22	4
30 to 49 years	75	20	3
50 to 64 years	66	24	9
50 years and older	65	24	8
65 years and older	65	24	6
<b>Education</b>			
College post graduate	59	32	6
College graduate	64	20	13
Some college	75	20	3
No college	73	22	4
<b>Income</b>			
\$75,000 and over	61	27	8
\$50,000 and over <sup>b</sup>	72	20	6
\$30,000 to \$49,999	67	24	7
\$20,000 to \$29,999	75	21	3
Under \$20,000	68	25	4
<b>Community</b>			
Urban area	67	26	4
Suburban area	71	22	5
Rural area	74	19	6
<b>Region</b>			
East	69	21	8
Midwest	71	24	3
South	72	22	4
West	69	22	6
<b>Politics</b>			
Republican	79	13	6
Democrat	61	32	4
Independent	75	18	6

Note: The "don't know/refused" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>b</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.60

**Respondents reporting having a gun in their home**

United States, selected years 1959-99

Question: "Do you have a gun in your home?"

	Yes	No
1959	49%	51%
1965	48	52
1968	50	50
1972	43	55
1975	44	54
1980	45	53
1983	40	58
1985	44	55
1989	47	51
1990	47	52
1991	46	53
March 1993	48	51
October 1993	51	48
1996	38	60
1997	42	57
1999	36	62

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.  
For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available:  
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990406.asp> [July 20, 1999]. Table adapted by  
SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.61

**Respondents reporting having a gun in their home**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "Do you have a gun in your home?"

	Yes	No
National	36%	62%
<u>Sex</u>		
Male	47	51
Female	27	71
<u>Race</u>		
White	40	59
Nonwhite	19	79
<u>Age</u>		
18 to 29 years	28	71
30 to 49 years	37	62
50 to 64 years	46	53
65 years and older	36	61
<u>Region</u>		
East	26	73
Midwest	39	60
South	46	52
West	33	65

Note: The "no opinion" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.  
For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available:  
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990406.asp> [July 20, 1999]. Table adapted by  
SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.62

**Respondents reporting a firearm in their home**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-98

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?"

(Percent reporting having any firearms)

	1973	1974	1976	1977	1980	1982	1984	1985	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1994	1996	1998
National	47%	46%	47%	51%	48%	45%	45%	44%	46%	40%	46%	43%	40%	42%	41%	40%	35%
<u>Sex</u>																	
Male	53	51	52	55	56	54	53	54	51	50	55	53	50	53	50	47	43
Female	43	42	43	47	41	39	40	36	43	33	39	34	32	34	33	34	29
<u>Race</u>																	
White	49	48	58	53	50	48	48	46	49	43	50	45	42	45	44	44	40
Black/other	38	32	37	34	29	30	30	29	33	28	23	29	29	26	24	24	16
<u>Age</u>																	
18 to 20 years	50	34	38	54	48	51	44	39	43	33	35	40	22	48	42	35	20
21 to 29 years	43	48	45	45	48	41	37	40	35	34	33	34	36	38	34	32	23
30 to 49 years	51	49	52	55	50	51	48	48	51	42	48	46	40	44	41	39	37
50 years and older	46	44	44	49	46	44	49	44	47	42	50	42	42	42	43	47	39
<u>Education<sup>a</sup></u>																	
College	45	42	44	45	41	39	42	40	43	37	41	37	34	38	38	38	31
High school graduate	50	48	50	54	51	51	48	49	50	43	51	47	46	46	44	46	43
Less than high school graduate	44	49	42	51	51	41	43	38	44	39	46	47	39	47	37	38	34
<u>Income</u>																	
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	49	52	49	43
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	48	50	44	42
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	44	38	44	32
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	32	28	26	22
<u>Occupation</u>																	
Professional/business	48	45	46	48	45	42	42	40	45	39	46	38	35	38	38	39	35
Clerical	42	43	40	49	45	39	41	40	45	37	37	38	35	36	36	40	31
Manual	48	48	48	52	48	49	48	48	46	41	52	50	47	51	45	43	38
Farmer	83	79	62	66	81	77	84	78	75	82	87	83	56	68	67	67	72
<u>Region</u>																	
Northeast	22	27	29	32	27	32	32	28	31	25	32	30	28	29	26	24	22
Midwest	51	49	48	53	52	48	44	48	46	41	46	44	42	41	46	42	37
South	62	59	60	62	59	52	52	53	55	47	53	52	50	52	48	48	42
West	47	42	44	46	44	47	49	40	47	42	48	39	32	39	35	39	32
<u>Religion</u>																	
Protestant	56	52	53	57	56	52	52	50	52	46	53	48	46	47	46	46	42
Catholic	35	37	36	39	36	36	34	35	36	31	36	36	30	36	34	34	27
Jewish	14	7	26	17	6	11	22	9	25	0	18	6	10	9	18	11	12
None	32	40	43	50	39	37	36	44	39	41	36	34	31	37	32	35	26
<u>Politics</u>																	
Republican	53	49	50	56	53	50	56	47	51	46	50	48	42	51	49	49	46
Democrat	44	45	45	49	46	44	42	47	44	39	43	40	41	35	37	35	30
Independent	49	47	48	50	47	44	40	39	44	36	46	42	37	42	39	38	32

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCE-BOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

Table 2.63

**Respondents reporting a firearm in their home**

By type of firearm and demographic characteristics, United States, 1998

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home (or garage) any guns or revolvers?" If yes, "Is it a pistol, shotgun, rifle, or what?"

(Percent reporting having a firearm)

	Firearm in the home			
	Any type	Type of firearm <sup>a</sup>		
		Pistol	Shotgun	Rifle
National	35%	56%	60%	60%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	43	59	67	60
Female	29	53	52	60
<u>Race</u>				
White	40	56	62	62
Black/other	16	62	39	44
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 20 years	20	50	50	40
21 to 29 years	23	60	67	56
30 to 49 years	37	54	57	60
50 years and older	39	57	61	62
<u>Education</u>				
College	31	59	61	62
High school graduate	43	56	56	59
Less than high school graduate	34	50	65	55
<u>Income</u>				
\$50,000 and over	43	62	67	68
\$30,000 to \$49,999	42	55	58	57
\$20,000 to \$29,999	32	55	54	53
Under \$20,000	22	54	50	53
<u>Occupation</u>				
Professional/business	35	60	59	63
Clerical	31	56	52	62
Manual	38	54	63	56
Farmer	72	33	67	67
<u>Region</u>				
Northeast	22	42	58	73
Midwest	37	47	64	55
South	42	64	62	57
West	32	60	50	64
<u>Religion</u>				
Protestant	42	55	62	62
Catholic	27	54	58	62
Jewish	12	100	25	25
None	26	64	51	50
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	46	56	70	71
Democrat	30	56	48	54
Independent	32	57	60	54

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Percents for pistol, shotgun, and rifle are based on the 35% subsample of respondents reporting that they have a gun in their home. Percents add to more than 100 because some respondents reported owning more than one type.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data file.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.64

**Respondents reporting a firearm in their home**

By type of firearm and demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "Do you happen to have in your home or garage any guns or revolvers?" If yes, "Do you have a . . . , or not?"

(Percent reporting having a firearm)

	Firearm in the home			
	Any type	Type of firearm <sup>a</sup>		
		Pistol	Shotgun	Rifle
National	39%	64%	75%	70%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	47	65	75	73
Female	31	63	74	67
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>				
White	43	65	76	73
Black	20	55	47	41
Hispanic	25	65	82	62
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 24 years	34	44	72	60
25 to 29 years	36	54	77	59
30 to 39 years	34	68	76	84
40 to 49 years	45	72	75	77
50 to 64 years	48	63	76	64
65 years and older	34	74	72	67
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	38	64	67	56
College graduate	41	74	61	67
Some college	36	70	77	69
Less than college	40	59	79	74
<u>Income</u>				
Over \$75,000	46	67	73	70
\$50,001 to \$75,000	42	63	81	75
\$35,001 to \$50,000	50	62	68	74
\$25,001 to \$35,000	43	71	81	78
\$15,001 to \$25,000	34	58	72	67
\$15,000 or less	25	64	81	68
<u>Region</u>				
East	26	56	78	73
Midwest	38	52	77	74
South	49	68	73	62
West	37	78	74	87
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	38	67	74	78
Democrat	35	56	65	63
Independent	44	72	78	71

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Percents for pistol, shotgun, and rifle are based on the 39% subsample of respondents reporting that they have a gun in their home. Percents add to more than 100 because some respondents reported owning more than one type.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.

Table 2.65

**Respondents reporting a firearm in their home**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1998

	Gun in household	Handgun in household	Respondent personally owns gun
National	37.8%	23.1%	25.4%
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	43.1	27.5	42.3
Female	33.0	18.9	9.8
<b>Age</b>			
Under 30 years	31.3	18.1	19.5
30 to 39 years	32.6	21.6	22.1
40 to 49 years	39.4	18.4	25.2
50 to 65 years	54.4	39.4	35.8
Over 65 years	33.9	19.5	26.5
<b>Education</b>			
College post graduate	33.6	24.7	25.6
College graduate	38.4	25.3	23.9
High school graduate	40.2	24.9	28.5
Less than high school graduate	35.2	13.5	23.9
<b>Income</b>			
\$80,000 and over	36.7	25.9	24.0
\$60,000 to \$79,999	46.8	25.7	29.5
\$50,000 to \$59,999	50.9	28.1	32.2
\$40,000 to \$49,999	46.4	27.9	28.7
\$30,000 to \$39,999	41.8	28.0	27.0
\$20,000 to \$29,999	35.5	22.0	29.1
\$10,000 to \$19,999	25.4	12.6	16.5
Under \$10,000	21.8	8.6	19.7
<b>Marital status</b>			
Married	48.7	29.3	31.6
Divorced	25.7	18.5	20.8
Separated	29.8	18.3	13.0
Widowed	18.4	10.0	15.6
Never married	20.8	12.7	14.6
<b>Region</b>			
Northeast	24.3	15.1	14.2
Midwest	34.4	17.6	23.6
South	46.4	28.9	32.4
West	39.8	26.6	25.9

Note: See Note, table 2.42.

Source: Tom W. Smith, *1998 National Gun Policy Survey of the National Opinion Research Center: Research Findings* (Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago, 1999), pp. 38-40. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.66

**Attitudes toward gun control measures**

By type of measure, United States, 1999

Type of measure	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Mandatory prison sentences for felons who commit crimes with guns	89%	9%	2%
Mandatory background checks before people--including gun dealers--could buy guns at gun shows	87	12	1
Requiring safety locks or trigger guards to be included with all new handgun purchases	85	14	1
Raising the minimum age for handgun possession to 21 years of age	82	17	1
Registration of all firearms	79	20	1
Imposing a lifetime ban on gun ownership for any juvenile convicted of a felony	77	21	2
Banning the importation of high-capacity ammunition clips	68	29	3
Holding parents legally responsible if their children commit crimes with the parents' guns	57	39	4

Note: For discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll* [Online]. Available: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990616.asp> [July 20, 1999]. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.67

**Attitudes toward gun control and gun safety measures**

United States, 1996, 1997, and 1998

(Percent supporting the measure)

	1996	1997-98	1998
<b>Gun control measures</b>			
Mandatory registration of handguns	81.3%	81.5%	85.3%
Keep handguns from criminals, even if harder for law-abiding citizens to purchase	78.3	70.1	75.3
Mandatory registration of rifles and shotguns	66.3	62.6	72.3
Ban possession of handguns, except by police or other authorized persons	35.2	36.1	38.5
Total ban on handguns	16.1	16.5	15.6
<b>Gun safety measures and beliefs</b>			
Require that all new handguns be childproof	85.8	87.5	87.9
Require that all new handguns be personalized so only owner can fire	68.0	71.4	69.8
Require Federal safety regulations for gun design	74.6	67.8	74.9
Home less safe with handgun	43.4	45.4	46.4
<b>Prohibit gun purchases to people convicted of:</b>			
Assault and battery that does not involve a lethal weapon or serious injury	77.9	84.5	80.9
Carrying a concealed weapon without a permit	85.4	82.9	84.3
Driving under the influence of alcohol	63.1	70.6	68.1

Note: See Note, table 2.42.

Source: Tom W. Smith, *1998 National Gun Policy Survey of the National Opinion Research Center: Research Findings* (Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago, 1999), p. 37. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.68

**Attitudes toward gun control**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "In general, would you say you favor stricter gun control, or less strict gun control?"

	Stricter	Less strict	Neither <sup>a</sup>
National	63%	25%	10%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	55	32	13
Female	71	19	8
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>			
White	60	28	11
Black	78	13	8
Hispanic	62	25	13
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	64	25	8
25 to 29 years	76	18	6
30 to 39 years	64	25	10
40 to 49 years	63	24	12
50 to 64 years	56	28	13
65 years and older	63	27	10
<u>Education</u>			
College post graduate	71	19	10
College graduate	69	23	7
Some college	61	25	12
Less than college	61	26	10
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$75,000	70	20	9
\$50,001 to \$75,000	61	28	11
\$35,001 to \$50,000	61	26	11
\$25,001 to \$35,000	53	35	10
\$15,001 to \$25,000	66	25	10
\$15,000 or less	75	18	7
<u>Region</u>			
East	70	19	10
Midwest	59	28	10
South	62	25	12
West	61	29	8
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	55	32	11
Democrat	81	13	5
Independent	53	30	16

Note: The "don't know" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore, percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.

Table 2.69

**Attitudes toward handgun control**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "In general, do you favor stricter or less strict laws relating to the control of hand guns?"

	Stricter	Less strict	Neither <sup>a</sup>
National	73%	20%	5%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	66	26	7
Female	79	15	4
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>			
White	70	23	5
Black	82	12	6
Hispanic	75	22	3
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 24 years	78	19	0
25 to 29 years	81	15	4
30 to 39 years	72	21	5
40 to 49 years	69	21	9
50 to 64 years	71	22	6
65 years and older	74	20	5
<u>Education</u>			
College post graduate	79	14	7
College graduate	76	19	4
Some college	71	20	8
Less than college	72	22	4
<u>Income</u>			
Over \$75,000	74	19	6
\$50,001 to \$75,000	70	24	5
\$35,001 to \$50,000	75	18	6
\$25,001 to \$35,000	65	28	6
\$15,001 to \$25,000	83	13	3
\$15,000 or less	76	20	3
<u>Region</u>			
East	80	14	4
Midwest	70	22	5
South	72	22	6
West	69	24	6
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	67	27	5
Democrat	88	9	2
Independent	65	24	10

Note: The "don't know" and "refused" categories have been omitted; therefore, percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, [see Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Response volunteered.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.

Table 2.70

**Attitudes toward laws covering the sale of firearms**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "In general, do you feel that the laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?"

	More strict	Less strict	Kept as they are now	Don't know/ refused
National	65%	5%	28%	2%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	52	8	36	4
Female	77	3	19	1
<u>Race</u>				
White	62	6	30	2
Black	94	2	4	0
Nonwhite <sup>a</sup>	86	4	9	1
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	65	3	31	1
30 to 49 years	63	8	28	1
50 to 64 years	62	5	30	3
50 years and older	66	4	26	4
65 years and older	71	3	20	6
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	68	4	27	1
College graduate	67	8	22	3
Some college	61	5	31	3
No college	66	5	26	3
<u>Income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	68	8	23	1
\$50,000 and over <sup>b</sup>	63	7	29	1
\$30,000 to \$49,999	61	7	29	3
\$20,000 to \$29,999	65	3	31	1
Under \$20,000	71	3	21	5
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	72	4	23	1
Suburban area	63	5	29	3
Rural area	59	7	30	4
<u>Region</u>				
East	73	4	21	2
Midwest	62	7	28	3
South	60	6	32	2
West	65	4	28	3
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	49	8	42	1
Democrat	80	2	16	2
Independent	64	6	27	3

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).<sup>a</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>b</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.71

**Attitudes toward a law requiring a police permit prior to gun purchase**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1974-98

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law which would require a person to obtain a police permit before he or she could buy a gun?"

	1974		1975		1976		1977		1980		1982		1984		1985	
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
National	75%	24%	74%	24%	72%	27%	72%	26%	69%	29%	72%	26%	70%	27%	72%	26%
<b>Sex</b>																
Male	66	33	66	32	64	35	64	35	63	36	68	31	62	37	65	34
Female	83	15	80	17	78	20	78	19	74	23	75	23	76	20	78	20
<b>Race</b>																
White	75	24	73	25	71	27	70	28	68	30	71	27	69	29	72	27
Black/other	77	22	81	15	74	24	81	17	81	15	78	19	79	18	76	22
<b>Age</b>																
18 to 20 years	75	23	74	26	78	22	69	31	71	29	77	23	71	24	71	29
21 to 29 years	77	23	79	19	71	27	72	26	73	27	76	24	73	25	74	25
30 to 49 years	76	24	70	27	73	25	70	29	70	29	72	26	70	29	71	28
50 years and older	74	24	73	24	70	29	74	24	67	29	69	29	70	26	72	26
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>																
College	77	22	76	22	71	27	74	25	70	29	76	23	74	25	75	24
High school graduate	75	23	74	24	72	27	70	28	69	29	71	27	68	30	71	28
Less than high school graduate	71	27	68	26	71	28	72	25	70	27	64	30	72	23	69	26
<b>Income</b>																
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Occupation</b>																
Professional/business	74	25	73	24	74	25	76	23	70	28	75	23	71	27	75	24
Clerical	84	16	81	18	78	20	75	22	77	21	77	23	76	23	79	21
Manual	74	24	70	27	68	30	68	30	67	32	69	29	68	29	68	31
Farmer	52	48	60	33	56	44	66	31	53	47	36	60	48	48	43	57
<b>Region</b>																
Northeast	88	12	85	12	86	13	85	14	86	13	85	13	80	18	82	17
Midwest	77	22	76	22	72	27	67	31	71	27	73	24	70	25	73	25
South	70	28	66	30	63	35	69	28	64	34	62	36	66	31	67	32
West	66	32	70	29	68	30	68	31	60	38	69	30	67	32	71	29
<b>Religion</b>																
Protestant	71	28	70	27	67	31	67	30	64	34	68	30	66	31	68	30
Catholic	85	14	83	15	82	18	80	20	83	16	81	17	79	20	79	20
Jewish	98	2	96	4	89	11	89	9	88	12	89	5	93	7	94	6
None	70	29	71	28	68	28	73	26	71	28	72	28	78	22	74	26
<b>Politics</b>																
Republican	74	25	74	23	71	27	71	26	64	35	66	33	66	32	70	28
Democrat	78	22	77	20	74	25	73	26	74	25	75	24	75	23	74	25
Independent	73	25	70	28	69	29	71	28	68	29	72	26	70	28	72	27

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.  
For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996		1998	
Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose
70%	28%	74%	24%	78%	21%	79%	20%	81%	18%	81%	17%	78%	20%	80%	18%	82%	16%
62	36	66	33	69	30	72	27	74	25	73	26	70	29	73	25	76	22
76	22	79	17	85	13	84	14	86	12	87	11	84	14	86	12	86	12
69	29	74	24	77	21	77	21	81	18	80	18	77	22	80	19	80	18
74	23	75	23	81	18	86	12	84	15	84	15	84	14	84	13	88	10
69	29	73	24	66	34	91	9	70	30	83	17	85	15	69	29	82	16
76	23	73	26	81	17	83	15	82	18	83	17	78	20	78	21	82	16
68	30	72	26	74	25	76	23	82	17	82	17	77	22	83	15	82	16
69	29	75	20	81	17	78	19	80	17	80	18	79	19	80	19	81	16
74	25	76	22	80	19	81	18	85	14	84	15	79	19	83	16	84	14
67	31	74	24	75	23	77	20	79	20	79	19	76	22	79	19	79	19
70	27	66	27	82	17	73	22	70	24	76	20	78	18	76	20	80	17
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	84	15	79	20	82	16	83	15
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	83	16	74	25	82	17	81	18
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	84	15	80	19	81	18	83	15
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	79	20	80	18	78	19	84	14
74	24	77	21	82	17	78	20	89	11	84	15	79	20	82	17	83	14
77	22	78	19	80	16	84	15	84	15	89	10	85	14	83	16	84	14
64	33	71	26	72	26	77	22	75	23	75	23	74	24	80	18	79	19
48	50	24	65	73	27	56	39	72	28	72	24	56	38	53	43	80	20
83	15	84	13	90	10	85	15	84	15	90	9	85	15	84	13	88	10
68	31	76	22	80	19	78	20	81	17	82	16	78	21	84	14	79	18
66	31	69	28	72	26	77	20	78	21	75	22	77	21	78	20	79	18
67	31	68	28	74	24	75	24	85	15	82	17	74	25	77	21	82	17
67	31	72	26	75	23	76	22	78	20	79	19	75	23	81	17	80	18
74	24	77	20	84	16	84	14	84	15	84	14	84	15	83	15	85	12
85	10	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	96	4	94	6	89	11	88	9
77	20	73	25	70	26	76	23	87	13	80	20	76	22	72	26	80	17
71	27	68	29	76	22	78	21	81	18	76	22	71	28	77	22	75	23
70	29	79	19	84	15	83	15	82	16	86	13	85	14	86	12	86	13
70	28	73	24	71	26	76	23	80	19	81	17	77	21	79	19	83	14

Table 2.72

**Attitudes toward legalization of the use of marijuana**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1973-98

Question: "Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?"

	1973		1975		1976		1978		1980		1983		1984		1986	
	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not
National	18%	80%	20%	75%	28%	69%	30%	67%	25%	72%	20%	76%	23%	73%	18%	80%
<u>Sex</u>																
Male	22	75	25	69	32	64	34	63	30	67	25	71	28	68	23	75
Female	15	83	16	80	24	73	26	71	21	76	16	80	19	77	14	84
<u>Race</u>																
White	18	80	20	75	27	70	29	68	25	72	19	77	23	73	18	81
Black/other	18	79	22	71	33	60	38	59	27	71	28	69	22	75	19	77
<u>Age</u>																
18 to 20 years	42	56	34	56	57	39	51	48	45	52	33	67	36	62	16	82
21 to 29 years	38	60	40	54	49	48	49	49	42	56	29	68	34	62	27	71
30 to 49 years	14	84	18	79	25	72	29	69	27	71	21	76	27	68	20	79
50 years and older	9	89	9	86	16	81	16	80	13	84	13	83	9	87	12	87
<u>Education</u> <sup>a</sup>																
College	32	66	35	59	40	56	42	55	35	61	23	74	29	66	22	75
High school graduate	15	83	16	79	26	70	27	70	23	75	21	76	21	75	17	82
Less than high school graduate	6	94	5	89	11	86	13	84	3	88	9	87	7	91	8	91
<u>Income</u>																
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<u>Occupation</u>																
Professional/business	23	74	29	65	36	60	37	60	30	66	22	75	27	68	20	79
Clerical	15	83	20	76	26	72	27	71	23	75	18	79	22	72	16	82
Manual	17	82	17	79	25	71	28	69	23	74	22	75	20	77	19	79
Farmer	6	89	3	93	8	92	16	80	12	79	8	82	3	94	9	91
<u>Region</u>																
Northeast	22	74	26	70	32	64	33	62	27	70	20	76	24	74	20	80
Midwest	20	78	20	75	25	72	26	72	20	77	18	79	23	72	16	82
South	11	89	12	84	22	74	27	72	20	78	17	80	20	76	14	84
West	24	73	32	63	37	61	38	59	38	57	30	66	26	70	25	73
<u>Religion</u>																
Protestant	14	84	15	81	22	74	24	74	20	77	17	80	20	76	15	83
Catholic	18	81	21	73	32	64	31	64	26	71	17	78	20	76	18	80
Jewish	33	67	48	48	37	63	62	38	28	62	33	54	48	48	40	60
None	52	43	53	43	54	39	64	33	60	36	54	44	44	50	37	60
<u>Politics</u>																
Republican	11	87	12	86	20	78	19	80	18	80	15	82	17	80	13	86
Democrat	17	82	19	77	26	71	29	67	24	73	20	77	21	75	18	80
Independent	25	72	26	67	34	62	37	60	30	66	24	72	28	68	21	76

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998," Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut. (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly comparable to data presented for prior years.

1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		1993		1994		1996		1998	
Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not	Should	Should not
16%	81%	17%	79%	16%	81%	16%	81%	18%	78%	22%	73%	23%	72%	26%	69%	28%	66%
19	78	21	74	20	76	19	79	23	74	27	68	27	69	30	66	34	60
14	83	14	82	14	84	14	82	14	81	19	76	20	75	22	72	22	71
17	80	17	80	18	80	17	80	18	78	22	73	23	73	26	69	28	65
12	84	18	75	10	85	13	82	16	76	20	75	24	71	22	70	24	70
21	74	16	74	19	75	22	78	21	79	24	69	50	50	38	60	34	64
25	70	24	70	21	76	19	76	25	73	25	70	24	71	30	66	34	59
19	79	19	78	19	78	19	79	22	74	27	67	26	70	28	67	30	63
8	90	12	86	11	86	12	85	10	86	15	81	17	78	19	75	21	73
21	75	20	75	20	77	18	79	21	74	25	70	26	69	27	68	32	62
13	84	16	80	15	82	16	81	16	81	19	76	22	74	24	71	23	70
10	88	12	88	9	88	12	87	8	88	19	80	10	84	22	72	22	72
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23	72	24	70	25	70	27	68
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22	72	21	76	25	71	29	67
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	27	69	20	77	27	68	32	61
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23	73	27	69	29	66	26	68
20	77	16	80	20	77	21	77	19	76	24	71	26	69	26	68	31	64
11	83	14	82	10	88	9	87	16	80	19	75	18	79	23	71	23	72
16	81	20	75	17	80	16	80	17	79	24	71	24	72	26	69	28	65
2	95	6	94	25	75	6	88	15	80	5	90	15	82	26	71	42	45
18	78	19	76	14	80	12	84	18	77	24	70	19	75	26	67	28	65
14	83	18	78	14	84	16	81	13	83	19	77	19	76	23	74	27	66
13	85	12	86	14	83	12	84	15	81	19	77	22	74	24	70	22	72
23	72	23	72	26	72	29	71	30	66	28	64	32	64	31	64	37	58
13	85	13	84	13	86	12	85	16	80	18	78	19	77	19	74	21	73
16	81	16	80	16	80	15	84	15	82	21	75	21	74	29	68	27	66
40	55	52	44	35	65	33	60	36	59	30	60	42	49	37	54	56	44
42	51	38	55	40	49	44	51	40	52	47	45	46	49	42	54	48	44
13	84	14	84	14	85	11	86	16	80	14	84	15	82	20	77	19	77
15	82	18	78	16	81	18	79	16	80	28	68	24	73	24	69	29	65
19	76	20	75	19	76	18	78	21	75	23	69	29	64	30	64	31	62

Table 2.73

**High school seniors reporting that they worry about selected social problems**

United States, 1986-98

Question: "Of all the problems facing the nation today, how often do you worry about each of the following?"

(Percent responding "sometimes" or "often")

	Class of 1986 (N=3,073)	Class of 1987 (N=3,370)	Class of 1988 (N=3,326)	Class of 1989 (N=2,849)	Class of 1990 (N=2,595)	Class of 1991 (N=2,595)	Class of 1992 (N=2,736)	Class of 1993 (N=2,807)	Class of 1994 (N=2,664)	Class of 1995 (N=2,646)	Class of 1996 (N=2,502)	Class of 1997 (N=2,651)	Class of 1998 (N=2,621)
Crime and violence	79.4%	81.9%	83.9%	86.3%	88.8%	88.1%	91.6%	90.8%	92.7%	90.2%	90.1%	86.5%	84.4%
Drug abuse	69.2	75.4	78.6	79.5	82.6	79.5	77.8	75.5	76.7	72.6	71.0	71.1	65.3
Hunger and poverty	65.9	62.2	64.2	64.1	65.9	66.4	68.1	71.1	65.7	62.3	62.6	61.1	55.5
Chance of nuclear war	69.1	58.3	57.3	52.4	45.1	41.5	33.4	28.8	27.9	20.0	21.6	20.4	29.0
Economic problems	60.6	55.6	56.2	57.6	56.8	63.9	70.6	71.8	62.6	55.7	57.9	51.5	47.6
Pollution	44.2	45.2	45.5	55.9	67.2	72.1	71.9	72.8	66.5	63.6	62.9	61.6	57.1
Race relations	43.4	44.2	53.3	53.6	57.1	59.4	68.7	75.4	71.6	68.9	70.7	64.7	56.0
Energy shortages	28.7	28.1	25.1	27.9	32.6	38.2	35.2	29.8	23.8	17.9	19.2	19.4	18.3
Using open land for housing or industry	26.8	30.5	29.4	30.8	33.9	33.8	34.7	32.9	32.7	28.9	32.6	32.7	30.8
Population growth	24.1	26.6	27.5	29.6	33.0	30.6	35.2	38.9	35.4	34.9	37.4	38.2	34.8
Urban decay	17.0	18.5	19.9	19.8	20.4	21.7	25.8	25.3	25.6	23.0	25.1	22.1	18.8

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the Monitoring the Future Project at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research from 1975 through 1998. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools throughout the continental United States. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the N's that are shown in the tables refer to the number of weighted cases.

Response categories were "never," "seldom," "sometimes," and "often." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1987*, pp. 180, 181; *1989*, pp. 180, 181; *1991*, pp. 188, 189; *1993*, pp. 190, 191; *1995*, pp. 191, 192 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, pp. 176, 177; *1988*, pp. 180, 181; *1990*, pp. 186, 187; *1992*, pp. 189, 190; *1994*, pp. 189, 190 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.74

**High school seniors reporting that they worry about crime and violence**

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1986-98

Question: "Of all the problems facing the nation today, how often do you worry about . . . crime and violence?"

(Percent responding "sometimes" or "often")

	Class of 1986 (N=3,073)	Class of 1987 (N=3,370)	Class of 1988 (N=3,326)	Class of 1989 (N=2,849)	Class of 1990 (N=2,595)	Class of 1991 (N=2,595)	Class of 1992 (N=2,736)	Class of 1993 (N=2,807)	Class of 1994 (N=2,664)	Class of 1995 (N=2,646)	Class of 1996 (N=2,502)	Class of 1997 (N=2,651)	Class of 1998 (N=2,621)
Total	79.4%	81.9%	83.9%	86.3%	88.8%	88.1%	91.6%	90.8%	92.7%	90.2%	90.1%	86.5%	84.4%
<b>Sex</b>													
Male	70.8	73.7	76.0	80.9	84.8	82.6	87.6	85.7	88.4	85.8	84.8	79.4	76.5
Female	87.4	90.3	91.8	92.2	93.4	93.6	95.7	95.6	96.5	95.1	95.4	93.7	91.7
<b>Race</b>													
White	78.4	80.8	82.8	84.6	88.1	86.6	90.5	89.4	92.9	90.0	89.5	84.5	83.5
Black	81.9	94.2	88.2	91.8	92.7	94.5	96.9	95.1	90.7	93.0	92.9	90.4	85.7
<b>Region</b>													
Northeast	77.0	77.9	81.9	83.0	87.7	86.0	92.0	90.6	91.0	91.7	89.4	83.2	83.1
North Central	78.9	81.6	81.7	83.0	87.0	88.8	87.6	90.2	93.2	86.7	87.4	85.1	80.7
South	82.3	85.3	86.1	89.4	90.4	88.4	93.8	91.2	93.3	91.3	91.1	88.7	87.0
West	78.4	81.3	85.4	88.2	89.4	89.0	93.0	91.4	92.4	92.2	93.4	88.2	85.4
<b>College plans</b>													
Yes	80.9	82.8	85.4	88.0	89.8	89.9	93.1	92.4	94.1	92.6	91.6	88.4	85.3
No	77.2	79.4	80.8	82.8	88.0	83.9	87.7	85.8	89.4	84.0	86.2	80.7	82.2
<b>Lifetime illicit drug use</b>													
None	80.3	83.2	85.8	88.8	90.6	90.7	92.9	91.9	94.1	91.8	90.5	89.1	86.8
Marijuana only	79.2	81.7	83.9	86.6	87.1	85.4	89.6	91.1	91.5	90.9	91.9	85.7	82.3
Few pills	80.0	80.8	83.7	85.2	87.6	86.6	89.4	90.7	95.6	92.6	91.0	88.3	84.6
More pills	77.8	81.2	81.2	81.7	85.7	84.8	90.6	87.4	89.5	84.1	87.4	81.0	83.3

Note: See Note, table 2.73. Data are given for those who identify themselves as white or Caucasian and those who identify themselves as black or African-American because these are the two largest racial/ethnic subgroups in the population. Data are not given for the other ethnic categories because each of these groups comprises a small portion of the sample in any given year (Source, **1992**, p. 9). "College plans" distinguishes those seniors who expect to graduate from a 4-year college from those who expect to receive some college training or none. The four drug use categories are based on an index of seriousness of involvement. The "pills" category indicates use of any of a number of drugs including some that usually are not taken in pill form. Respondents indicating the use of one or more of a number of illicit drugs but who had not used any one class of them on three or more occasions and did not use heroin at all fall into the "few pills" category. Respondents indicating such use on three or more occasions and who did not use heroin at all fall into the "more pills" category. Respondents reporting heroin use were included in a separate category that is not presented here due to the small number of respondents indicating such use. (Source, **1995**, pp. 8, 9, 14.)

Response categories were "never," "seldom," "sometimes," and "often." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see **Appendix 6**.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1987*, p. 180; **1989**, p. 180; **1991**, p. 188; **1993**, p. 190; **1995**, p. 191 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, p. 176; **1988**, p. 180; **1990**, p. 186; **1992**, p. 189; **1994**, p. 189 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.75

**High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of selected institutions**

United States, 1986-98

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by. . .?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

	Class of 1986 (N=3,159)	Class of 1987 (N=3,357)	Class of 1988 (N=3,378)	Class of 1989 (N=2,852)	Class of 1990 (N=2,600)	Class of 1991 (N=2,582)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,773)	Class of 1994 (N=2,642)	Class of 1995 (N=2,658)	Class of 1996 (N=2,455)	Class of 1997 (N=2,648)	Class of 1998 (N=2,608)
Large corporations	47.6%	46.9%	47.4%	45.1%	38.4%	36.3%	31.8%	31.5%	34.6%	37.9%	36.3%	35.3%	43.0%
Major labor unions	32.6	31.8	32.7	35.5	31.7	31.3	28.9	27.2	29.2	28.0	30.8	29.2	32.8
The Nation's colleges and universities	78.6	78.8	76.8	73.7	73.8	70.2	67.2	61.1	67.7	66.6	70.5	65.7	70.1
The Nation's public schools	46.8	46.2	44.2	37.9	36.1	33.6	32.5	29.0	27.2	31.8	30.6	30.0	32.2
Churches and religious organizations	54.8	48.4	47.4	47.3	47.0	49.2	50.3	46.9	50.3	50.2	49.0	48.3	52.6
The national news media (TV, magazines, news services)	65.5	58.8	58.3	55.3	54.7	51.1	47.9	40.5	37.9	33.1	34.5	34.8	36.1
The President and his administration	54.4	35.2	35.3	36.4	41.8	56.8	23.8	24.9	22.1	19.7	24.0	26.8	34.1
Congress--that is, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives	42.3	36.9	33.4	31.6	32.9	38.3	15.9	16.6	18.8	20.6	18.1	21.7	28.7
The U.S. Supreme Court	46.3	45.7	42.1	42.7	40.9	44.1	35.7	31.0	31.0	29.8	30.4	30.5	36.6
All the courts and the justice system in general	34.4	33.7	31.6	31.7	27.8	31.2	23.4	21.1	19.3	20.6	21.2	22.4	25.7
The police and other law enforcement agencies	40.5	39.5	37.4	33.6	34.3	28.0	26.9	27.1	29.3	28.7	27.6	28.7	33.0
The U.S. military	66.4	62.2	60.9	60.1	58.8	80.6	62.2	57.0	54.3	54.8	55.6	52.9	56.7

Note: See Note, table 2.73. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1987*, pp. 132-134; *1989*, pp. 132-134; *1991*, pp. 136-138; *1993*, pp. 138-140; *1995*, pp. 139-141 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, pp. 129-131; *1988*, pp. 132-134; *1990*, pp. 135-137; *1992*, pp. 137-139; *1994*, pp. 137-139 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.76

**High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the police and other law enforcement agencies**

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1986-98

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by. . . the police and other law enforcement agencies?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

	Class of 1986 (N=3,159)	Class of 1987 (N=3,357)	Class of 1988 (N=3,378)	Class of 1989 (N=2,852)	Class of 1990 (N=2,600)	Class of 1991 (N=2,582)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,773)	Class of 1994 (N=2,642)	Class of 1995 (N=2,658)	Class of 1996 (N=2,455)	Class of 1997 (N=2,648)	Class of 1998 (N=2,608)
Total	40.5%	39.5%	37.4%	33.6%	34.3%	28.0%	26.9%	27.1%	29.3%	28.7%	27.6%	28.7%	33.0%
<b>Sex</b>													
Male	39.9	40.4	37.3	33.5	33.4	29.3	27.4	30.1	30.2	29.1	28.6	30.3	33.9
Female	40.9	38.5	37.5	34.2	35.0	27.2	26.8	24.3	28.4	28.1	26.5	27.7	32.1
<b>Race</b>													
White	42.4	41.9	40.5	35.5	35.4	31.5	30.0	31.1	32.2	31.5	30.7	32.1	35.7
Black	30.3	24.8	22.6	28.3	22.4	11.0	12.4	9.2	16.9	16.8	14.6	16.3	22.5
<b>Region</b>													
Northeast	32.5	37.4	34.0	33.4	28.3	26.3	26.6	28.0	29.5	25.5	30.7	32.7	33.4
North Central	41.4	39.4	38.5	33.8	35.2	35.7	27.7	28.5	29.9	29.9	24.5	25.4	32.8
South	42.7	39.5	38.5	35.2	36.0	22.1	24.5	25.4	29.3	27.3	26.5	28.9	32.4
West	46.2	41.9	37.3	30.7	36.3	30.0	30.7	27.8	28.4	32.9	31.1	28.6	34.2
<b>College plans</b>													
Yes	39.9	40.7	38.7	34.2	34.0	28.5	25.8	26.9	29.5	28.9	27.8	29.3	33.0
No	42.6	38.3	35.4	34.0	33.8	28.7	31.0	27.3	29.7	29.4	28.1	26.6	32.2
<b>Lifetime illicit drug use</b>													
None	43.4	43.0	39.7	35.1	37.7	31.1	29.5	29.7	32.9	31.7	29.4	33.0	39.3
Marijuana only	39.6	39.8	35.1	33.1	33.6	27.0	23.5	24.0	25.8	26.3	25.5	27.7	30.2
Few pills	40.3	38.2	35.9	28.0	31.5	29.4	23.3	25.2	26.7	24.2	36.3	26.1	29.1
More pills	36.9	32.6	35.7	32.8	26.6	17.5	21.3	22.2	22.9	25.8	20.0	21.6	25.9

Note: See Notes, tables 2.73 and 2.74. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1987*, p. 134; *1989*, p. 134; *1991*, p. 138; *1993*, p. 140; *1995*, p. 141 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, p. 131; *1988*, p. 134; *1990*, p. 137; *1992*, p. 139; *1994*, p. 139 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.77

**High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the U.S. Supreme Court**

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1986-98

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by . . . the U.S. Supreme Court?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

	Class of 1986 (N=3,159)	Class of 1987 (N=3,357)	Class of 1988 (N=3,378)	Class of 1989 (N=2,852)	Class of 1990 (N=2,600)	Class of 1991 (N=2,582)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,773)	Class of 1994 (N=2,642)	Class of 1995 (N=2,658)	Class of 1996 (N=2,455)	Class of 1997 (N=2,648)	Class of 1998 (N=2,608)
Total	46.3%	45.7%	42.1%	42.7%	40.9%	44.1%	35.7%	31.0%	31.0%	29.8%	30.4%	30.5%	36.6%
<u>Sex</u>													
Male	48.8	50.0	44.6	45.8	44.6	46.2	39.7	34.5	32.6	35.0	35.6	33.3	39.7
Female	44.0	41.9	40.5	39.5	37.2	41.7	32.1	27.8	29.6	24.8	25.7	28.3	33.5
<u>Race</u>													
White	48.1	47.9	45.0	43.7	42.0	47.1	38.4	33.3	32.9	32.5	31.3	33.5	38.1
Black	42.3	38.5	32.0	37.0	36.9	29.9	27.8	23.8	22.9	21.9	27.5	22.3	31.2
<u>Region</u>													
Northeast	41.1	44.1	39.4	38.9	38.4	40.1	31.9	31.5	31.5	26.6	32.7	30.2	31.4
North Central	47.1	47.9	42.1	41.1	42.1	47.9	38.3	33.4	32.2	32.8	27.4	27.8	36.5
South	48.5	44.9	46.5	46.7	41.6	43.9	35.9	28.9	30.3	30.4	34.0	34.0	38.3
West	48.3	45.9	37.4	40.9	40.4	42.8	34.8	31.0	30.2	27.5	25.0	28.7	39.0
<u>College plans</u>													
Yes	47.8	49.2	45.8	44.5	42.4	47.5	37.8	34.0	33.6	30.9	31.6	32.1	38.1
No	44.0	39.7	35.9	39.7	36.7	36.3	31.6	23.3	24.7	27.1	25.9	26.7	31.7
<u>Lifetime illicit drug use</u>													
None	47.4	49.7	43.5	44.2	44.1	46.8	39.3	33.4	32.6	30.7	30.5	31.7	38.8
Marijuana only	48.7	44.7	41.5	41.6	38.6	41.6	31.3	29.6	30.0	29.6	33.1	30.7	33.6
Few pills	43.5	44.1	38.1	35.5	36.0	41.9	30.7	27.6	29.1	34.5	32.5	32.3	34.2
More pills	43.6	40.3	41.8	45.7	36.7	37.2	27.7	27.7	29.3	24.5	26.4	28.6	38.8

Note: See Notes, tables 2.73 and 2.74. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1987*, p. 133; *1989*, p. 133; *1991*, p. 137; *1993*, p. 139; *1995*, p. 140 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, p. 130; *1988*, p. 133; *1990*, p. 136; *1992*, p. 138; *1994*, p. 138 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.78

**High school seniors reporting positive attitudes toward the performance of the courts and the justice system in general**

By sex, race, region, college plans, and illicit drug use, United States, 1986-98

Question: "Now we'd like you to make some ratings of how good or bad a job you feel each of the following organizations is doing for the country as a whole. . . . How good or bad a job is being done for the country as a whole by . . . all the courts and the justice system in general?"

(Percent responding "good" or "very good")

	Class of 1986 (N=3,159)	Class of 1987 (N=3,357)	Class of 1988 (N=3,378)	Class of 1989 (N=2,852)	Class of 1990 (N=2,600)	Class of 1991 (N=2,582)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,773)	Class of 1994 (N=2,642)	Class of 1995 (N=2,658)	Class of 1996 (N=2,455)	Class of 1997 (N=2,648)	Class of 1998 (N=2,608)
Total	34.4%	33.7%	31.6%	31.7%	27.8%	31.2%	23.4%	21.1%	19.3%	20.6%	21.2%	22.4%	25.7%
<u>Sex</u>													
Male	33.0	36.1	31.7	33.2	30.9	33.8	25.3	24.0	20.5	22.3	25.7	23.9	27.0
Female	35.2	31.3	32.1	30.1	24.9	28.8	21.5	18.7	18.2	18.6	16.8	20.9	24.4
<u>Race</u>													
White	34.7	33.8	34.0	32.2	27.3	32.5	24.6	22.4	20.5	21.4	21.5	23.5	26.1
Black	35.4	30.9	21.6	26.8	26.4	23.5	18.6	13.6	12.0	17.3	20.8	17.6	23.5
<u>Region</u>													
Northeast	29.2	32.3	31.2	27.2	22.8	31.0	18.1	19.7	18.5	17.6	20.4	23.5	23.3
North Central	34.8	33.3	31.7	33.7	27.2	34.4	24.5	22.6	19.0	23.2	19.5	21.5	26.3
South	36.8	34.4	34.1	33.4	31.1	28.0	24.5	20.8	19.5	20.0	25.2	23.5	26.5
West	36.3	34.6	27.4	29.9	28.8	32.7	24.8	20.6	20.4	20.6	16.3	20.0	26.1
<u>College plans</u>													
Yes	34.2	34.7	32.7	32.3	27.6	32.7	24.0	21.8	20.6	20.4	20.6	22.8	26.1
No	34.6	31.8	30.2	31.2	27.8	27.6	22.8	17.6	16.4	21.0	23.2	21.6	22.9
<u>Lifetime illicit drug use</u>													
None	33.9	35.0	32.7	31.6	29.9	34.3	25.8	23.0	21.0	20.9	19.4	24.1	28.5
Marijuana only	36.4	33.8	31.5	33.2	25.7	29.3	22.0	19.6	18.3	19.5	23.4	21.8	25.0
Few pills	36.1	35.8	30.8	28.2	25.4	27.0	15.4	18.5	16.8	25.2	29.1	19.7	21.0
More pills	33.1	28.9	29.2	33.6	24.2	25.2	19.6	16.9	17.9	18.4	19.7	20.7	25.8

Note: See Notes, tables 2.73 and 2.74. Response categories were "very poor," "poor," "fair," "good," "very good," and "no opinion." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1987*, p. 133; *1989*, p. 133; *1991*, p. 137; *1993*, p. 139; *1995*, p. 140 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1986*, p. 130; *1988*, p. 133; *1990*, p. 136; *1992*, p. 138; *1994*, p. 138 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.79

**Students' perceptions of the harmfulness of alcohol and drug use**By grade level of respondent, 1997-98<sup>a</sup>

Question: "Do you feel that using. . . is harmful to your health?"

	No harm	Some harm	Harmful	Very harmful
Beer	9.1%	35.2%	31.5%	24.2%
Grades 6 to 8	6.9	29.7	34.2	29.2
Grades 9 to 12	10.8	39.5	29.4	20.2
12th grade	11.0	42.2	28.1	18.7
Wine coolers	21.0	41.3	21.2	16.5
Grades 6 to 8	17.7	37.9	24.3	20.1
Grades 9 to 12	23.6	44.0	18.7	13.7
12th Grade	22.2	46.0	18.7	13.2
Liquor	6.5	23.5	34.6	35.4
Grades 6 to 8	4.9	17.5	35.3	42.3
Grades 9 to 12	7.8	28.2	34.1	29.9
12 grade	8.0	31.9	33.2	26.8
Marijuana	8.4	13.0	18.0	60.6
Grades 6 to 8	5.4	6.8	12.8	75.0
Grades 9 to 12	10.8	17.9	22.0	49.3
12th grade	11.4	22.0	24.2	42.5
Cocaine	2.4	2.2	8.3	87.1
Grades 6 to 8	2.3	1.9	7.1	88.7
Grades 9 to 12	2.4	2.5	9.3	85.8
12th grade	2.5	2.5	9.1	86.0
Inhalants	3.9	9.7	20.7	65.6
Grades 6 to 8	4.3	11.3	21.8	62.6
Grades 9 to 12	3.6	8.5	19.9	68.0
12th grade	3.1	6.2	18.4	72.3
Hallucinogens	3.2	4.4	13.6	78.8
Grades 6 to 8	3.0	4.2	14.5	78.3
Grades 9 to 12	3.3	4.5	12.9	79.2
12th grade	3.4	4.4	12.8	79.4
Heroin	2.4	2.0	8.1	87.5
Grades 6 to 8	2.4	2.2	8.8	86.5
Grades 9 to 12	2.3	1.8	7.6	88.3
12th grade	2.5	1.6	7.2	88.7

Note: These data are from a survey of 6th through 12th grade students conducted between September 1997 and June 1998 by PRIDE, Inc. Participating schools are sent the PRIDE questionnaire with explicit instructions for administering the anonymous, self-report survey. Schools that administer the PRIDE questionnaire do so voluntarily or in compliance with a school district or State request. For the 1997-98 academic year, survey results are based on students from 28 States. The following States participated in the 1997-98 PRIDE survey: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming. To prevent any one State from having a disproportionate influence on the summary results, random samples of students were drawn from those States where disproportionately large numbers of students were surveyed. Therefore, no one State comprises more than 10% of the sample. The results presented are based on a sample consisting of 154,350 students drawn from the total number of students who completed the PRIDE questionnaire.

<sup>a</sup>Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: PRIDE, Inc., "1997-98 National Summary, Grades 6 through 12," Atlanta, GA: PRIDE, Inc., 1999. (Mimeographed.) Pp. 39-42. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.80

**High school seniors' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking**

By type of drug and frequency of use, United States, 1986-98

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they. . .?"

(Percent responding "great risk"<sup>a</sup>)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Class of 1986 (N=3,020)	Class of 1987 (N=3,315)	Class of 1988 (N=3,276)	Class of 1989 (N=2,796)	Class of 1990 (N=2,553)	Class of 1991 (N=2,549)	Class of 1992 (N=2,684)	Class of 1993 (N=2,759)	Class of 1994 (N=2,591)	Class of 1995 (N=2,603)	Class of 1996 (N=2,449)	Class of 1997 (N=2,579)	Class of 1998 (N=2,571)
Try marijuana once or twice	15.1%	18.4%	19.0%	23.6%	23.1%	27.1%	24.5%	21.9%	19.5%	16.3%	15.6%	14.9%	16.7%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	25.0	30.4	31.7	36.5	36.9	40.6	39.6	35.6	30.1	25.6	25.9	24.7	24.4
Smoke marijuana regularly	71.3	73.5	77.0	77.5	77.8	78.6	76.5	72.5	65.0	60.8	59.9	58.1	58.5
Try LSD once or twice	42.0	44.9	45.7	46.0	44.7	46.6	42.3	39.5	38.8	36.4	36.2	34.7	37.4
Take LSD regularly	82.6	83.8	84.2	84.3	84.5	84.3	81.8	79.4	79.1	78.1	77.8	76.6	76.5
Try PCP once or twice	NA	55.6	58.8	56.6	55.2	51.7	54.8	50.8	51.5	49.1	51.0	48.8	46.8
Try cocaine once or twice	33.5	47.9	51.2	54.9	59.4	59.4	56.8	57.6	57.2	53.7	54.2	53.6	54.6
Take cocaine occasionally	54.2	66.8	69.2	71.8	73.9	75.5	75.1	73.3	73.7	70.8	72.1	72.4	70.1
Take cocaine regularly	82.2	88.5	89.2	90.2	91.1	90.4	90.2	90.1	89.3	87.9	88.3	87.1	86.3
Try crack once or twice	NA	57.0	62.1	62.9	64.3	60.6	62.4	57.6	58.4	54.6	56.0	54.0	52.2
Take crack occasionally	NA	70.4	73.2	75.3	80.4	76.5	76.3	73.9	73.8	72.8	71.4	70.3	68.7
Take crack regularly	NA	84.6	84.8	85.6	91.6	90.1	89.3	87.5	89.6	88.6	88.0	86.2	85.3
Try cocaine powder once or twice	NA	45.3	51.7	53.8	53.9	53.6	57.1	53.2	55.4	52.0	53.2	51.4	48.5
Take cocaine powder occasionally	NA	56.8	61.9	65.8	71.1	69.8	70.8	68.6	70.6	69.1	68.8	67.7	65.4
Take cocaine powder regularly	NA	81.4	82.9	83.9	90.2	88.9	88.4	87.0	88.6	87.8	86.8	86.0	84.1
Try heroin once or twice	45.8	53.6	54.0	53.8	55.4	55.2	50.9	50.7	52.8	50.9	52.5	56.7	57.8
Take heroin occasionally	68.2	74.6	73.8	75.5	76.6	74.9	74.2	72.0	72.1	71.0	74.8	76.3	76.9
Take heroin regularly	87.1	88.7	88.8	89.5	90.2	89.6	89.2	88.3	88.0	87.2	89.5	88.9	89.1
Try amphetamines once or twice	25.1	29.1	29.6	32.8	32.2	36.3	32.6	31.3	31.4	28.8	30.8	31.0	35.3
Take amphetamines regularly	67.3	69.4	69.8	71.2	71.2	74.1	72.4	69.9	67.0	65.9	66.8	66.0	67.7
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice) once or twice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	61.6	61.9	57.5	58.3	54.4	55.3	54.4	52.7
Try barbiturates once or twice	25.4	30.9	29.7	32.2	32.4	35.1	32.2	29.2	29.9	26.3	29.1	26.9	29.0
Take barbiturates regularly	67.2	69.4	69.6	70.5	70.2	70.5	70.2	66.1	63.3	61.6	60.4	56.8	56.3
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	4.6	6.2	6.0	6.0	8.3	9.1	8.6	8.2	7.6	5.9	7.3	6.7	8.0
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	25.1	26.2	27.3	28.5	31.3	32.7	30.6	28.2	27.0	24.8	25.1	24.8	24.3
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	66.5	69.7	68.5	69.8	70.9	69.5	70.5	67.8	66.2	62.8	65.6	63.0	62.1
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	39.1	41.9	42.6	44.0	47.1	48.6	49.0	48.3	46.5	45.2	49.5	43.0	42.8
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	66.0	68.6	68.0	67.2	68.2	69.4	69.2	69.5	67.6	65.6	68.2	68.7	70.8
Take steroids	NA	NA	NA	63.8	69.9	65.6	70.7	69.1	66.1	66.4	67.6	67.2	68.1

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research for the National Institute on Drug Abuse from 1975 through 1998. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools. Depending on the survey year, approximately 65% of the schools initially invited to participate agreed to do so. Completed questionnaires were obtained from approximately 83% of all sampled students in participating schools each year. Beginning in 1991, eighth and tenth grade students also were included in the survey. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the N's that are shown in the tables also refer to the number of weighted cases. "Crack" is a highly potent and addictive form of cocaine. Alcohol and cigarette use are included in selected tables. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 6](#).

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.81

**Students' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking**

By type of drug, frequency of use, and student grade level, United States, 1995-98

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . . ?"

(Percent responding "great risk"<sup>a</sup>)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Eighth grade				Tenth grade				Twelfth grade			
	1995 (N=17,501)	1996 (N=17,926)	1997 (N=18,765)	1998 (N=18,100)	1995 (N=17,006)	1996 (N=15,670)	1997 (N=15,640)	1998 (N=15,000)	1995 (N=2,603)	1996 (N=2,449)	1997 (N=2,579)	1998 (N=2,500)
Try marijuana once or twice	28.9%	27.9%	25.3%	28.1%	21.5%	20.0%	18.8%	19.6%	16.3%	15.6%	14.9%	16.7%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	45.9	44.3	43.1	45.0	35.4	32.8	31.9	32.5	25.6	25.9	24.7	24.4
Smoke marijuana regularly	73.0	70.9	72.7	73.0	67.9	65.9	65.9	65.8	60.8	59.9	58.1	58.5
Try inhalants once or twice <sup>b</sup>	36.4	40.8	40.1	38.9	41.6	47.2	47.5	45.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
Take inhalants regularly <sup>b</sup>	64.8	68.2	68.7	67.2	71.8	75.8	74.5	73.3	NA	NA	NA	NA
Try LSD once or twice <sup>c</sup>	36.7	36.5	37.0	34.9	44.7	45.1	44.5	43.5	36.4	36.2	34.7	37.4
Take LSD regularly <sup>c</sup>	64.4	63.6	64.1	59.6	75.5	75.3	73.8	72.3	78.1	77.8	76.6	76.5
Try crack once or twice <sup>b</sup>	50.8	51.0	49.9	49.3	60.9	60.9	59.2	58.0	54.6	56.0	54.0	52.2
Take crack occasionally <sup>b</sup>	72.1	71.6	71.2	70.6	81.2	80.3	78.7	77.5	72.8	71.4	70.3	68.7
Try cocaine powder once or twice <sup>b</sup>	44.9	45.2	45.0	44.0	53.5	53.6	52.2	50.9	52.0	53.2	51.4	48.5
Take cocaine powder occasionally <sup>b</sup>	66.4	65.7	65.8	65.2	75.6	75.0	73.9	71.8	69.1	68.8	67.7	65.4
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle <sup>c</sup>	60.1	61.3	63.0	62.8	70.7	72.1	73.1	71.7	55.6	58.6	60.5	59.6
Try heroin occasionally without using a needle <sup>c</sup>	76.8	76.6	79.2	79.0	85.1	85.8	86.5	84.9	71.2	71.0	74.3	73.4
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	11.6	11.8	10.4	12.1	9.3	8.9	9.0	10.1	5.9	7.3	6.7	8.0
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	30.5	28.6	29.1	30.3	31.7	31.2	31.8	31.9	24.8	25.1	24.8	24.3
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	54.1	51.8	55.6	56.0	52.0	50.9	51.8	52.5	45.2	49.5	43.0	42.8
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	49.8	50.4	52.6	54.3	57.0	57.9	59.9	61.9	65.6	68.2	68.7	70.8
Take steroids	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	66.4	67.6	67.2	68.1

Note: See Note, table 2.80. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1991 through 1994 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. The Ns for 1998 are approximate. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

<sup>b</sup>Beginning in 1997, data for eighth and tenth grades are based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

<sup>c</sup>Data for eighth and tenth grades are based on one of two forms in 1995 and 1996; N is one-half of N indicated. Beginning in 1997, data are based on one-third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.82

**Young adults' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking**

By type of drug, frequency of use, and age group, United States, selected years 1986-98

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they. . .?"

(Percent responding "great risk"<sup>a</sup>)

	Age groups												
	19 to 22 years old												
Type of drug and frequency of use	1986 (N=581)	1987 (N=570)	1988 (N=551)	1989 (N=565)	1990 (N=552)	1991 (N=533)	1992 (N=527)	1993 (N=480)	1994 (N=490)	1995 (N=500)	1996 (N=469)	1997 (N=465)	1998 (N=431)
Try marijuana once or twice	13.0%	12.9%	16.8%	16.9%	17.8%	19.1%	19.7%	19.4%	18.8%	13.3%	16.9%	14.8%	13.4%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	22.4	23.0	28.7	29.1	30.1	30.2	29.5	30.3	31.3	25.5	25.6	22.0	22.0
Smoke marijuana regularly	67.6	69.4	72.4	74.9	73.0	75.0	69.3	69.2	65.0	62.1	61.3	60.6	53.4
Try LSD once or twice	47.6	49.4	49.2	49.5	49.3	48.0	45.6	42.4	42.3	40.3	44.4	40.1	38.7
Take LSD regularly	87.1	85.6	85.4	85.5	85.8	86.6	87.0	81.3	81.0	80.5	82.4	83.6	78.6
Try cocaine once or twice	35.5	45.9	51.9	51.5	58.1	58.7	56.1	60.5	63.8	57.7	61.9	55.5	55.4
Take cocaine occasionally	53.8	61.3	67.1	72.6	74.6	72.6	74.9	75.4	78.0	73.4	76.6	76.0	71.2
Take cocaine regularly	82.0	88.0	90.3	89.1	93.9	93.5	92.9	91.7	92.2	91.5	92.2	91.6	88.7
Try crack once or twice	NA	59.4	67.3	68.5	69.4	66.9	65.4	63.5	70.1	61.9	65.2	62.0	59.3
Take crack occasionally	NA	75.0	77.3	81.8	82.3	82.7	81.9	83.6	84.3	78.8	83.5	79.1	79.1
Take crack regularly	NA	89.6	91.1	94.1	94.9	95.6	93.4	96.2	96.0	94.2	94.7	93.3	92.8
Try heroin once or twice	55.5	57.9	58.9	59.6	58.3	59.9	59.8	58.9	60.8	58.9	61.0	63.9	60.7
Take heroin occasionally	77.2	77.6	77.5	79.8	80.8	80.2	81.6	78.8	79.0	77.9	82.1	84.7	80.4
Take heroin regularly	90.7	90.2	89.6	90.8	91.2	91.5	92.2	89.2	91.2	89.9	94.0	93.7	92.4
Try amphetamines once or twice	27.1	27.4	31.7	28.9	35.6	32.8	34.5	33.3	36.3	32.9	36.8	30.1	31.7
Take amphetamines regularly	72.3	72.0	73.9	71.3	74.0	77.1	73.5	73.5	71.6	72.2	75.8	72.3	71.9
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice)	NA	NA	NA	NA	57.8	58.6	57.7	57.5	61.4	58.9	61.1	56.4	55.8
Try barbiturates once or twice	30.7	29.6	32.7	30.5	36.4	33.5	33.5	33.4	35.0	30.5	34.1	31.3	27.7
Take barbiturates regularly	74.5	73.0	74.0	71.7	75.5	75.5	73.6	71.1	69.4	66.4	70.7	69.5	65.1
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	5.4	3.5	3.9	5.9	6.1	5.4	5.8	6.6	6.5	4.5	3.3	3.2	4.2
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	27.3	26.1	26.5	28.1	30.1	29.1	30.2	28.0	27.5	24.0	23.0	24.2	22.1
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	74.0	76.4	72.8	75.7	76.1	75.5	71.8	72.1	70.3	72.5	68.5	71.4	70.4
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	34.6	36.7	36.9	42.4	40.6	40.8	41.8	42.4	41.9	39.9	40.7	36.6	42.0
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	70.4	70.6	71.0	73.4	72.5	77.9	72.6	76.0	71.2	71.6	73.8	76.3	77.2

Note: See Note, table 2.80. "Young adults" includes high school graduates 1 to 10 years beyond high school. Some data for 1995 have been revised by the Source and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 2, College Students and Young Adults, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

23 to 26 years old									27 to 30 years old					
1990 (N=511)	1991 (N=505)	1992 (N=518)	1993 (N=503)	1994 (N=465)	1995 (N=445)	1996 (N=438)	1997 (N=420)	1998 (N=413)	1993 (N=473)	1994 (N=443)	1995 (N=448)	1996 (N=422)	1997 (N=434)	1998 (N=416)
17.7%	14.0%	15.0%	13.0%	15.0%	15.8%	18.5%	15.1%	16.7%	14.0%	14.8%	16.1%	16.2%	16.1%	16.4%
30.4	26.2	27.4	24.0	25.5	27.7	27.3	26.4	26.8	26.8	28.1	28.3	28.1	26.0	25.8
71.0	70.9	67.3	64.1	63.2	64.2	62.7	64.0	62.7	69.4	65.6	69.2	67.3	65.0	63.6
52.0	50.1	49.7	49.0	46.8	45.8	46.1	46.6	45.7	51.5	53.5	52.5	50.1	51.9	52.0
88.2	89.1	87.3	85.3	87.5	86.3	84.7	85.6	82.1	89.0	89.2	88.4	87.0	87.2	90.5
51.5	50.5	53.5	54.1	56.0	58.7	57.2	63.1	60.2	54.7	53.5	56.4	53.6	54.6	60.5
69.9	70.3	69.9	72.8	70.3	76.0	71.3	76.4	74.2	69.1	69.9	70.0	67.8	73.8	73.2
91.2	92.7	89.9	91.9	92.6	93.3	90.6	93.2	92.9	91.6	92.1	91.3	91.6	92.7	93.0
67.3	66.9	67.1	64.2	69.3	64.8	68.6	64.7	67.3	68.8	65.6	66.4	66.7	68.5	66.5
81.1	83.9	84.4	81.6	83.2	81.4	85.9	80.8	84.2	83.6	78.6	81.1	81.3	85.2	81.7
94.2	95.4	94.1	93.4	94.9	95.5	96.1	91.4	95.6	93.5	93.0	94.0	94.3	96.0	94.3
64.1	62.4	63.7	65.0	63.3	64.1	63.5	67.3	67.3	69.3	69.6	66.4	66.4	67.9	69.7
83.4	84.4	81.5	82.1	80.8	85.3	82.4	86.5	83.9	86.2	86.8	83.1	83.8	85.8	86.6
91.0	92.6	91.3	91.6	93.0	93.5	92.7	94.4	93.4	92.6	93.8	92.4	92.1	93.8	95.0
35.3	31.0	32.7	32.6	32.9	34.3	34.9	37.8	40.9	34.0	37.5	36.0	36.2	34.5	37.6
77.8	79.4	76.4	76.2	73.6	80.5	78.5	79.1	77.5	79.8	78.4	77.7	75.6	77.4	81.1
56.5	56.0	55.6	52.0	61.0	57.8	64.1	60.7	58.2	60.3	57.9	58.5	59.1	59.7	59.9
37.9	31.8	33.5	32.8	34.0	34.8	35.8	37.3	40.3	36.5	40.5	36.6	37.2	35.6	36.7
80.5	77.7	76.3	75.0	74.3	77.6	77.1	75.2	73.9	80.2	78.3	77.7	74.1	77.1	79.9
5.7	4.4	5.6	3.2	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.1	6.7	4.7	4.0	6.2
31.1	30.4	31.6	25.9	26.2	26.1	22.0	20.2	21.0	28.0	27.4	27.2	24.0	24.8	20.8
79.7	80.2	78.0	76.7	77.5	75.2	72.0	75.1	69.3	79.1	76.6	82.2	76.1	79.2	75.7
40.2	39.3	37.6	36.2	40.2	37.9	39.1	37.4	41.1	42.9	43.2	44.6	41.5	40.0	40.2
78.5	75.3	76.3	78.4	76.4	76.0	76.0	77.6	76.5	75.0	75.3	75.6	73.0	80.3	80.9

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Table 2.83

**Respondents' perceptions of the harmfulness of selected drug use behaviors**

By age group, United States, 1997

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they do each of the following activities?"

(Percent responding "great risk")

Risk behavior	Total all ages	Age group			
		12 to 17 years	18 to 25 years	26 to 34 years	35 years and older
<u>Marijuana</u>					
Smoke once a month	43.4%	30.9%	28.8%	35.3%	51.0%
Smoke once or twice a week	58.8	54.0	46.1	52.8	64.1
<u>Cocaine</u>					
Use once a month	77.9	54.4	70.6	76.1	84.0
Use once or twice a week	92.8	82.4	90.8	92.9	94.9
<u>Heroin</u>					
Try once or twice	80.9	53.5	72.5	80.0	87.7
Use once or twice a week	94.4	82.2	92.8	95.6	96.5
<u>Alcohol</u>					
Four or five drinks nearly every day	76.5	65.3	68.4	76.3	80.2
Five or more drinks once or twice a week	54.8	46.5	42.7	47.8	60.6
<u>Cigarettes</u>					
Smoke one or more packs per day	67.4	53.6	61.3	68.3	70.9

Note: These data are from the 1997 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Households were randomly sampled from all households in the United States and interviews were conducted throughout the year. Due to improved survey procedures implemented in 1994, these estimates should not be used for comparison or trends with pre-1994 data.

Answer alternatives to the question were "no risk," "slight risk," "moderate risk," and "great risk." For survey methodology, see [Appendix 7](#).

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1997* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999), p. 163. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.84

**High school seniors' perceptions of availability of drugs**

By type of drug, United States, 1986-98

Question: "How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?"

(Percent responding "fairly easy" or "very easy"<sup>a</sup>)

Type of drug	Class of 1986 (N=3,077)	Class of 1987 (N=3,271)	Class of 1988 (N=3,231)	Class of 1989 (N=2,806)	Class of 1990 (N=2,549)	Class of 1991 (N=2,476)	Class of 1992 (N=2,586)	Class of 1993 (N=2,670)	Class of 1994 (N=2,526)	Class of 1995 (N=2,552)	Class of 1996 (N=2,340)	Class of 1997 (N=2,517)	Class of 1998 (N=2,520)
Marijuana	85.2%	84.8%	85.0%	84.3%	84.4%	83.3%	82.7%	83.0%	85.5%	88.5%	88.7%	89.6%	90.4%
Amyl and butyl nitrites	NA	23.9	25.9	26.8	24.4	22.7	25.9	25.9	26.7	26.0	23.9	23.8	25.1
LSD	28.5	31.4	33.3	38.3	40.7	39.5	44.5	49.2	50.8	53.8	51.3	50.7	48.8
PCP	NA	22.8	24.9	28.9	27.7	27.6	31.7	31.7	31.4	31.0	30.5	30.0	30.7
Some other psychedelic	24.9	25.0	26.2	28.2	28.3	28.0	29.9	33.5	33.8	35.8	33.9	33.9	35.1
MDMA (ecstasy)	NA	NA	NA	21.7	22.0	22.1	24.2	28.1	31.2	34.2	36.9	38.8	38.2
Cocaine powder	NA	52.9	50.3	53.7	49.0	46.0	48.0	45.4	43.7	43.8	44.4	43.3	45.7
Crack	NA	41.1	42.1	47.0	42.4	39.9	43.5	43.6	40.5	41.9	40.7	40.6	43.8
Cocaine	51.5	54.2	55.0	58.7	54.5	51.0	52.7	48.5	46.6	47.7	48.1	48.5	51.3
Heroin	22.0	23.7	28.0	31.4	31.9	30.6	34.9	33.7	34.1	35.1	32.2	33.8	35.6
Some other narcotic (including methadone)	32.2	33.0	35.8	38.3	38.1	34.6	37.1	37.5	38.0	39.8	40.0	38.9	42.8
Amphetamines	64.3	64.5	63.9	64.3	59.7	57.3	58.8	61.5	62.0	62.8	59.4	59.8	60.8
Crystal methamphetamine (ice)	NA	NA	NA	NA	24.1	24.3	26.0	26.6	25.6	27.0	26.9	27.6	29.8
Barbiturates	48.3	48.2	47.8	48.4	45.9	42.4	44.0	44.5	43.3	42.3	41.4	40.0	40.7
Tranquilizers	51.2	48.6	49.1	45.3	44.7	40.8	40.9	41.1	39.2	37.8	36.0	35.4	36.2
Steroids	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	46.7	46.8	44.8	42.9	45.5	40.3	41.7	44.5

Note: See Note, table 2.80. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) probably impossible, (2) very difficult, (3) fairly difficult, (4) fairly easy, and (5) very easy.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.85

**Students' perceptions of availability of drugs**

By type of drug and student grade level, United States, 1995-98

Question: "How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?"

(Percent responding "fairly easy" or "very easy"<sup>a</sup>)

Type of drug	Eighth grade				Tenth grade				Twelfth grade			
	1995 (N=15,496)	1996 (N=16,318)	1997 (N=16,482)	1998 (N=16,208)	1995 (N=16,209)	1996 (N=14,887)	1997 (N=14,856)	1998 (N=14,423)	1995 (N=2,552)	1996 (N=2,340)	1997 (N=2,517)	1998 (N=2,520)
Marijuana	52.4%	54.8%	54.2%	50.6%	78.1%	81.1%	80.5%	77.9%	88.5%	88.7%	89.6%	90.4%
LSD	23.5	23.6	22.7	19.3	39.8	41.0	38.3	34.0	53.8	51.3	50.7	48.8
PCP <sup>b</sup>	19.0	19.6	19.2	17.5	24.7	26.8	24.8	23.9	31.0	30.5	30.0	30.7
Crack	28.7	27.9	27.5	26.5	34.6	36.4	36.0	36.3	41.9	40.7	40.6	43.8
Cocaine powder	27.8	27.2	26.9	25.7	35.3	36.9	37.1	36.8	43.8	44.4	43.3	45.7
Heroin	21.1	20.6	19.8	18.0	24.6	24.8	24.4	23.0	35.1	32.2	33.8	35.6
Other opiates <sup>b</sup>	20.3	20.0	20.6	17.1	27.8	29.4	29.0	26.1	39.8	40.0	38.9	42.8
Amphetamines	33.4	32.6	30.6	27.3	47.7	47.2	44.6	41.0	62.8	59.4	59.8	60.8
Crystal methamphetamine (ice) <sup>b</sup>	16.0	16.3	15.7	16.0	20.7	22.6	22.9	22.1	27.0	26.9	27.6	29.8
Barbiturates	26.5	25.6	24.4	21.1	38.8	38.1	35.6	32.7	42.3	41.4	40.0	40.7
Tranquilizers	21.3	20.4	19.6	18.1	30.6	30.3	28.7	26.5	37.8	36.0	35.4	36.2
Alcohol	74.9	75.3	74.9	73.1	89.7	90.4	89.0	88.0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Steroids	23.8	24.1	23.6	22.3	34.8	34.8	34.2	33.0	45.5	40.3	41.7	44.5

Note: See Note, table 2.80. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1992 through 1994 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) probably impossible, (2) very difficult, (3) fairly difficult, (4) fairly easy, and (5) very easy. For eighth and tenth grades the response "can't say, drug unfamiliar" was also available.

<sup>b</sup>Data for eighth and tenth grades are based on one of two questionnaire forms; N is one-half of N indicated in 1995-98.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.86

**High school seniors disapproving of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking**

By type of drug and frequency of use, United States, 1986-98

Question: "Do you disapprove of people (who are 18 or older) doing each of the following?"

(Percent responding "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove"<sup>a</sup>)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Class of 1986 (N=3,113)	Class of 1987 (N=3,302)	Class of 1988 (N=3,311)	Class of 1989 (N=2,799)	Class of 1990 (N=2,566)	Class of 1991 (N=2,547)	Class of 1992 (N=2,645)	Class of 1993 (N=2,723)	Class of 1994 (N=2,588)	Class of 1995 (N=2,603)	Class of 1996 (N=2,399)	Class of 1997 (N=2,601)	Class of 1998 (N=2,545)
Try marijuana once or twice	54.6%	56.6%	60.8%	64.6%	67.8%	68.7%	69.9%	63.3%	57.6%	56.7%	52.5%	51.0%	51.6%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	69.0	71.6	74.0	77.2	80.5	79.4	79.7	75.5	68.9	66.7	62.9	63.2	64.4
Smoke marijuana regularly	86.6	89.2	89.3	89.8	91.0	89.3	90.1	87.6	82.3	81.9	80.0	78.8	81.2
Try LSD once or twice	89.2	91.6	89.8	89.7	89.8	90.1	88.1	85.9	82.5	81.1	79.6	80.5	82.1
Take LSD regularly	96.6	97.8	96.4	96.4	96.3	96.4	95.5	95.8	94.3	92.5	93.2	92.9	93.5
Try cocaine once or twice	80.2	87.3	89.1	90.5	91.5	93.6	93.0	92.7	91.6	90.3	90.0	88.0	89.5
Take cocaine regularly	94.3	96.7	96.2	96.4	96.7	97.3	96.9	97.5	96.6	96.1	95.6	96.0	95.6
Try crack once or twice	NA	NA	NA	NA	92.3	92.1	93.1	89.9	89.5	91.4	87.4	87.0	86.7
Take crack occasionally	NA	NA	NA	NA	94.3	94.2	95.0	92.8	92.8	94.0	91.2	91.3	90.9
Take crack regularly	NA	NA	NA	NA	94.9	95.0	95.5	93.4	93.1	94.1	93.0	92.3	91.9
Try cocaine powder once or twice	NA	NA	NA	NA	87.9	88.0	89.4	86.6	87.1	88.3	83.1	83.0	83.1
Take cocaine powder occasionally	NA	NA	NA	NA	92.1	93.0	93.4	91.2	91.0	92.7	89.7	89.3	88.7
Take cocaine powder regularly	NA	NA	NA	NA	93.7	94.4	94.3	93.0	92.5	93.8	92.9	91.5	91.1
Try heroin once or twice	93.3	96.2	95.0	95.4	95.1	96.0	94.9	94.4	93.2	92.8	92.1	92.3	93.7
Take heroin occasionally	96.6	97.9	96.9	97.2	96.7	97.3	96.8	97.0	96.2	95.7	95.0	95.4	96.1
Take heroin regularly	97.6	98.1	97.2	97.4	97.5	97.8	97.2	97.5	97.1	96.4	96.3	96.4	96.6
Try amphetamines once or twice	76.5	80.7	82.5	83.3	85.3	86.5	86.9	84.2	81.3	82.2	79.9	81.3	82.5
Take amphetamines regularly	93.5	95.4	94.2	94.2	95.5	96.0	95.6	96.0	94.1	94.3	93.5	94.3	94.0
Try barbiturates once or twice	86.8	89.6	89.4	89.3	90.5	90.6	90.3	89.7	87.5	87.3	84.9	86.4	86.0
Take barbiturates regularly	94.9	96.4	95.3	95.3	96.4	97.1	96.5	97.0	96.1	95.2	94.8	95.3	94.6
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	20.9	21.4	22.6	27.3	29.4	29.8	33.0	30.1	28.4	27.3	26.5	26.1	24.5
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	72.8	74.2	75.0	76.5	77.9	76.5	75.9	77.8	73.1	73.3	70.8	70.0	69.4
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	91.4	92.2	92.8	91.6	91.9	90.6	90.8	90.6	89.8	88.8	89.4	88.6	86.7
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	62.4	62.0	65.3	66.5	68.9	67.4	70.7	70.1	65.1	66.7	64.7	65.0	63.8
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	75.4	74.3	73.1	72.4	72.8	71.4	73.5	70.6	69.8	68.2	67.2	67.1	68.8
Take steroids	NA	NA	NA	NA	90.8	90.5	92.1	92.1	91.9	91.0	91.7	91.4	90.8

Note: See Note, table 2.80. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1977 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) don't disapprove, (2) disapprove, and (3) strongly disapprove.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.87

**Students disapproving of drug use and alcohol use**

By type of drug, frequency of use, and student grade level, United States, 1995-98

Question: "Do you disapprove of people who . . .?"

(Percent responding "disapprove" or "strongly disapprove"<sup>a</sup>)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Eighth grade				Tenth grade				Twelfth grade <sup>b</sup>			
	1995 (N=17,560)	1996 (N=17,998)	1997 (N=18,765)	1998 (N=18,100)	1995 (N=17,016)	1996 (N=15,686)	1997 (N=15,627)	1998 (N=15,000)	1995 (N=2,603)	1996 (N=2,399)	1997 (N=2,601)	1998 (N=2,500)
Try marijuana once or twice	70.7%	67.5%	67.6%	69.0%	59.8%	55.5%	54.1%	56.0%	56.7%	52.5%	51.0%	51.6%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	79.7	76.5	78.1	78.4	70.0	66.9	66.2	67.3	66.7	62.9	63.2	64.4
Smoke marijuana regularly	85.1	82.8	84.6	84.5	81.1	79.7	79.7	80.1	81.9	80.0	78.8	81.2
Try inhalants once or twice <sup>c</sup>	81.8	82.9	84.1	83.0	84.5	86.0	86.9	85.6	NA	NA	NA	NA
Take inhalants regularly <sup>c</sup>	88.8	89.3	90.3	89.5	90.9	91.7	91.7	91.1	NA	NA	NA	NA
Try LSD once or twice <sup>d</sup>	71.6	70.9	72.1	69.1	77.9	76.8	76.6	76.7	81.1	79.6	80.5	82.1
Take LSD regularly <sup>d</sup>	75.8	75.3	76.3	72.5	84.8	84.5	83.4	82.9	92.5	93.2	92.9	93.5
Try crack once or twice <sup>c</sup>	85.9	85.0	85.7	85.4	88.7	88.2	87.4	87.1	91.4	87.4	87.0	86.7
Take crack occasionally <sup>c</sup>	89.8	89.3	90.3	89.5	91.7	91.9	91.0	90.6	94.0	91.2	91.3	90.9
Try cocaine powder once or twice <sup>c</sup>	85.3	83.9	85.1	84.5	86.8	86.1	85.1	84.9	88.3	83.1	83.0	83.1
Take cocaine powder occasionally <sup>c</sup>	89.7	88.7	90.1	89.3	91.4	91.1	90.4	89.7	92.7	89.7	89.3	88.7
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle <sup>d</sup>	85.8	85.0	87.7	87.3	89.7	89.5	89.1	88.7	92.9	90.8	92.3	93.0
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle <sup>d</sup>	88.5	87.7	90.1	89.6	91.6	91.7	91.4	90.5	94.7	93.2	94.4	94.3
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	48.0	45.5	45.7	47.5	36.1	34.2	33.7	34.7	27.3	26.5	26.1	24.5
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	75.9	74.1	76.6	76.9	75.4	73.8	75.4	74.6	73.3	70.8	70.0	69.4
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	80.7	79.1	81.3	81.0	72.2	70.7	70.2	70.5	66.7	64.7	65.0	93.8
Take steroids	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	91.0	91.7	91.4	90.8

Note: See Note, table 2.80. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1991 through 1994 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. The Ns for 1998 are approximate. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) don't disapprove, (2) disapprove, and (3) strongly disapprove. For eighth and tenth grades the response "can't say, drug unfamiliar" was also available.

<sup>b</sup>The twelfth grade questions ask about people who are 18 or older.

<sup>c</sup>Beginning in 1997, data for eighth and tenth grades are based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

<sup>d</sup>Data for eighth and tenth grades are based on one of two questionnaire forms for 1995 and 1996; N is one-half of N indicated. Beginning in 1997, N is one-third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.88

**High school seniors favoring prohibition of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking**

By type of drug and place of use, United States, 1986-98

Question: "Do you think that people (who are 18 or older) should be prohibited by law from doing each of the following?"

(Percent responding "yes"<sup>a</sup>)

	Class of 1986 (N=3,074)	Class of 1987 (N=3,332)	Class of 1988 (N=3,288)	Class of 1989 (N=2,813)	Class of 1990 (N=2,571)	Class of 1991 (N=2,512)	Class of 1992 (N=2,671)	Class of 1993 (N=2,759)	Class of 1994 (N=2,603)	Class of 1995 (N=2,578)	Class of 1996 (N=2,422)	Class of 1997 (N=2,587)	Class of 1998 (N=2,616)
Smoke marijuana in private	43.8%	47.6%	51.8%	51.5%	56.0%	51.6%	52.4%	48.0%	42.9%	44.0%	40.4%	38.8%	39.8%
Smoke marijuana in public places	78.9	79.7	81.3	80.0	81.9	79.8	78.3	77.3	72.5	72.9	70.0	69.4	72.2
Take LSD in private	69.0	70.8	71.5	71.6	72.9	68.1	67.2	63.5	63.2	64.3	62.0	61.2	64.7
Take LSD in public places	84.9	85.2	86.0	84.4	84.9	83.9	82.2	82.1	80.5	81.5	79.2	80.3	82.7
Take heroin in private	71.7	75.0	74.2	74.4	76.4	72.8	71.4	70.7	70.1	72.2	70.8	70.6	73.9
Take heroin in public places	85.0	86.2	86.6	85.2	86.7	85.4	83.3	84.5	82.9	84.8	82.3	84.3	86.4
Take amphetamines or barbiturates in private	56.8	59.1	60.2	61.1	64.5	59.7	60.5	57.4	55.7	57.5	54.6	54.6	58.5
Take amphetamines or barbiturates in public places	79.1	79.8	80.2	79.2	81.6	79.7	78.5	78.0	76.4	77.6	74.3	76.5	77.4
Get drunk in private	18.5	18.6	19.2	20.2	23.0	22.0	24.4	22.1	21.0	21.6	21.4	20.5	20.2
Get drunk in public places	52.2	53.2	53.8	52.6	54.6	54.3	54.1	53.6	54.3	54.5	52.8	51.7	51.2
Smoke cigarettes in certain specified public places	45.1	44.4	48.4	44.5	47.3	44.9	47.6	45.9	47.3	45.1	43.4	41.3	41.1

Note: See Note, table 2.80. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) no, (2) not sure, and (3) yes.

Table 2.89

**High school seniors' attitudes toward the legalization of marijuana use**

United States, 1986-98

Question: "There has been a great deal of public debate about whether marijuana use should be legal. Which of the following policies would you favor?"

(Percent favoring policy)

Policy	Class of 1986 (N=3,080)	Class of 1987 (N=3,330)	Class of 1988 (N=3,277)	Class of 1989 (N=2,812)	Class of 1990 (N=2,570)	Class of 1991 (N=2,515)	Class of 1992 (N=2,672)	Class of 1993 (N=2,768)	Class of 1994 (N=2,597)	Class of 1995 (N=2,574)	Class of 1996 (N=2,426)	Class of 1997 (N=2,585)	Class of 1998 (N=2,616)
Using marijuana should be entirely legal	14.9%	15.4%	15.1%	16.6%	15.9%	18.0%	18.7%	22.8%	26.8%	30.4%	31.2%	30.8%	27.9%
It should be a minor violation like a parking ticket but not a crime	25.9	24.6	21.9	18.9	17.4	19.2	18.0	18.7	19.0	18.0	21.0	20.7	24.3
It should be a crime	42.5	45.3	49.2	50.0	53.2	48.6	47.6	43.4	39.4	37.3	33.8	34.0	32.6
Don't know	16.7	14.8	13.9	14.6	13.6	14.3	15.7	15.1	14.8	14.4	13.9	14.5	15.2

Note: See Note, table 2.80. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.90

**High school seniors' attitudes toward legalization of the sale of marijuana if the use of marijuana were legal**

United States, 1986-98

Question: "If it were legal for people to USE marijuana, should it also be legal to SELL marijuana?"

	Class of 1986 (N=3,080)	Class of 1987 (N=3,330)	Class of 1988 (N=3,277)	Class of 1989 (N=2,812)	Class of 1990 (N=2,570)	Class of 1991 (N=2,515)	Class of 1992 (N=2,672)	Class of 1993 (N=2,768)	Class of 1994 (N=2,597)	Class of 1995 (N=2,574)	Class of 1996 (N=2,426)	Class of 1997 (N=2,585)	Class of 1998 (N=2,616)
No	33.0%	36.0%	36.8%	38.8%	40.1%	36.8%	37.8%	36.7%	33.1%	32.3%	29.4%	29.1%	30.2%
Yes, but only to adults	42.2	41.2	39.9	37.9	38.8	41.4	39.5	40.7	41.7	43.4	46.7	44.8	42.4
Yes, to anyone	10.4	9.2	10.5	9.2	9.6	9.4	9.6	10.1	11.6	11.7	11.1	12.5	11.9
Don't know	14.4	13.6	12.8	14.1	11.6	12.5	13.1	12.5	13.7	12.6	12.8	13.7	15.5

Note: See Note, table 2.80. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1985 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

Table 2.91

**College freshmen reporting that marijuana should be legalized**

By sex, United States, 1968-98

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Marijuana should be legalized		
	Total	Male	Female
1968	19.4%	21.4%	16.9%
1969	25.6	28.1	22.4
1970	38.4	41.0	35.2
1971	38.7	41.7	35.0
1972	46.6	49.6	43.0
1973	48.2	50.9	45.2
1974	46.7	49.7	43.4
1975	47.2	50.7	43.3
1976	48.9	51.6	46.1
1977	52.9	56.6	49.2
1978	49.5	52.1	47.1
1979	46.0	48.6	43.6
1980	39.3	42.1	36.6
1981	34.0	36.3	31.9
1982	29.4	32.5	26.4
1983	25.7	28.4	23.1
1984	22.9	25.8	20.3
1985	21.8	24.8	18.9
1986	21.3	25.0	18.0
1987	19.3	23.1	15.9
1988	19.3	22.8	16.4
1989	16.7	20.1	13.7
1990	18.6	21.7	16.0
1991	20.9	24.2	18.0
1992	23.0	26.6	19.9
1993	28.2	32.1	25.0
1994	32.1	36.4	28.3
1995	33.8	38.3	30.0
1996	33.0	37.2	29.6
1997	35.2	39.0	32.0
1998	32.4	38.6	27.2

Note: These figures are taken from the Cooperative Institutional Research Program Freshman Survey, which is conducted annually by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California, Los Angeles. The survey covers a wide range of student characteristics including demographic and background information, high school activities, college plans, values, attitudes, and beliefs. Each fall, the HERI surveys approximately 300,000 full-time students entering the freshman classes from a nationally representative sample of 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. From 1966 to 1970, approximately 15% of the Nation's institutions of higher education were selected by sampling procedures to participate in the program. Beginning in 1971, a stratified sample was selected from all institutions that have entering freshman classes and that respond to the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education General Information Survey. An institution is considered eligible if it was operating at the time of the survey and if it had a full-time freshman class of at least 25 students. The data presented above are weighted estimates of all first-time, full-time students entering higher education institutions in the fall of each year. Published reports on trends over 30 years or reports on individual annual survey results can be obtained by writing to the Higher Education Research Institute, 3005 Moore Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1521. Response categories were "agree strongly," "agree somewhat," "disagree somewhat," and "disagree strongly." The text or format of the questions or responses may differ slightly in different years.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute, pp. 29, 49, 69; **1998**, pp. 30, 48, 66 (Los Angeles: University of California). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.92

**College freshmen reporting that abortion should be legal**

By sex, United States, 1977-98

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Abortion should be legal		
	Total	Male	Female
1977	55.7%	55.8%	55.6%
1978	56.7	56.5	56.9
1979	53.3	53.0	53.6
1980	53.6	53.3	53.8
1981	53.9	53.0	54.7
1982	54.8	53.7	55.9
1983	54.8	54.7	54.8
1984	53.8	53.3	54.2
1985	54.9	54.5	55.3
1986	58.6	58.3	59.0
1987	58.7	58.7	58.7
1988	57.0	56.8	57.2
1989	64.7	63.6	65.5
1990	64.9	65.0	64.8
1991	63.0	63.0	63.0
1992	64.1	63.9	64.2
1993	62.4	61.8	62.8
1994	59.7	59.0	60.3
1995	58.4	57.8	58.9
1996	56.3	55.7	56.7
1997	53.5	53.7	53.3
1998	50.9	52.5	49.5

Note: See Note, table 2.91.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute, pp. 29, 49, 69; **1998**, pp. 30, 48, 66 (Los Angeles: University of California). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.93

**College freshmen reporting there is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals**

By sex, United States, 1969-83 and 1987-98

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals		
	Total	Male	Female
1969	54.3%	60.0%	46.8%
1970	51.6	57.5	44.5
1971	48.1	53.9	41.1
1972	50.3	56.4	43.0
1973	50.1	55.7	43.7
1974	51.5	56.9	45.6
1975	53.5	59.1	47.1
1976	59.7	64.8	54.3
1977	64.3	69.2	59.2
1978	65.4	70.3	60.6
1979	62.4	68.1	57.0
1980	65.9	70.5	61.6
1981	69.1	74.2	64.2
1982	69.8	74.3	65.5
1983	68.8	72.5	65.2
1987	68.3	71.4	65.5
1988	69.1	72.7	66.0
1989	68.5	71.9	65.5
1990	66.3	69.8	63.2
1991	65.3	67.6	63.4
1992	66.7	68.8	64.8
1993	67.6	70.1	65.5
1994	73.0	75.0	71.3
1995	73.3	74.4	72.5
1996	71.6	73.0	70.4
1997	70.2	70.6	69.9
1998	72.8	74.3	71.5

Note: See Note, table 2.91.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute, pp. 29, 49, 69; **1998**, pp. 30, 48, 66 (Los Angeles: University of California). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.94

**College freshmen reporting that capital punishment should be abolished**

By sex, United States, 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1978-98

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Capital punishment should be abolished		
	Total	Male	Female
1969	53.9%	50.0%	59.0%
1970	56.3	53.4	59.8
1971	57.6	53.2	62.8
1978	32.6	26.8	38.2
1979	34.5	28.0	40.7
1980	34.5	28.0	40.5
1981	30.1	24.7	35.2
1982	28.4	23.1	33.5
1983	28.9	23.9	33.7
1984	26.0	22.2	29.6
1985	26.6	22.6	30.2
1986	25.4	21.4	29.1
1987	23.8	20.4	27.0
1988	23.0	19.6	26.0
1989	21.3	18.4	23.8
1990	21.5	18.5	24.1
1991	21.2	18.8	23.2
1992	21.0	18.1	23.5
1993	22.1	19.2	24.5
1994	20.1	17.7	22.1
1995	20.9	18.1	23.2
1996	22.2	19.0	24.8
1997	23.7	20.9	26.1
1998	22.8	19.5	25.6

Note: See Note, table 2.91.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute, pp. 29, 49, 69; **1998**, pp. 30, 48, 66 (Los Angeles: University of California). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.95

**College freshmen reporting that homosexual relations should be legally prohibited**

By sex, United States, 1976-98

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relations		
	Total	Male	Female
1976	47.0%	55.0%	38.6%
1977	48.6	56.7	40.3
1978	46.3	54.4	38.5
1979	47.3	56.2	39.0
1980	48.9	58.1	40.3
1981	48.6	57.8	39.9
1982	47.2	57.0	37.6
1983	49.0	58.3	39.9
1984	47.8	57.9	38.4
1985	47.9	58.3	38.3
1986	52.2	62.5	42.8
1987	53.1	62.5	44.6
1988	49.0	59.7	39.9
1989	45.4	57.3	35.1
1990	44.4	56.0	34.5
1991	42.2	53.4	32.5
1992	37.6	48.6	28.3
1993	36.2	47.7	26.6
1994	33.9	45.4	24.0
1995	30.6	42.4	20.7
1996	33.5	45.2	24.1
1997	33.9	45.5	24.1
1998	33.3	43.4	24.8

Note: See Note, table 2.91.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute, pp. 29, 49, 69; **1998**, pp. 30, 48, 66 (Los Angeles: University of California). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.96

**College freshmen reporting that drug testing by employers should be allowed**

By sex, United States, 1988-98

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	Employers should be allowed to require drug testing of employees or job applicants		
	Total	Male	Female
1988	71.0%	69.8%	72.0%
1989	77.8	76.5	78.9
1990	80.4	78.5	82.1
1991	80.8	79.1	82.3
1992	82.4	80.5	83.9
1993	79.6	77.4	81.5
1994	80.6	78.3	82.5
1995	77.3	74.1	80.0
1996	79.2	76.4	81.4
1997	78.4	75.0	81.2
1998	78.5	74.6	81.8

Note: See Note, table 2.91.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute, pp. 29, 49, 69; **1998**, pp. 30, 48, 66 (Los Angeles: University of California). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.97

**College freshmen reporting that the Federal Government should do more to control the sale of handguns**

By sex, United States, 1989-98

(Percent indicating "agree strongly" or "agree somewhat")

	The Federal Government should do more to control the sale of handguns		
	Total	Male	Female
1989	78.2%	67.2%	87.6%
1990	77.1	65.5	87.0
1991	78.1	66.8	87.8
1992	80.4	69.4	89.6
1993	81.8	71.8	90.2
1994	79.9	69.2	89.2
1995	80.8	70.2	89.7
1996	81.6	71.6	89.5
1997	81.3	70.8	90.1
1998	82.5	72.7	90.8

Note: See Note, table 2.91.

Source: Alexander W. Astin et al., *The American Freshman: Thirty Year Trends*, Higher Education Research Institute (Los Angeles: University of California, 1997), pp. 58, 59, 88, 89, 118, 119; and Linda J. Sax et al., *The American Freshman: National Norms for Fall 1997*, Higher Education Research Institute, pp. 29, 49, 69; **1998**, pp. 30, 48, 66 (Los Angeles: University of California). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.98

**Attitudes toward laws regulating the distribution of pornography**

By demographic characteristics, United States, selected years 1984-98

Question: "Which of these statements comes closest to your feelings about pornography laws:  
 There should be laws against the distribution of pornography whatever the age; there  
 should be laws against the distribution of pornography to persons under 18; or there  
 should be no laws forbidding the distribution of pornography?"

	1984			1986			1987			1988			1989		
	Laws forbidding distribution	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distrib- ution	Laws forbidding distribution	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distrib- ution	Laws forbidding distribution	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distrib- ution	Laws forbidding distribution	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distrib- ution	Laws forbidding distribution	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distrib- ution
National	41%	54%	4%	43%	53%	4%	40%	55%	4%	43%	50%	5%	40%	54%	5%
<b>Sex</b>															
Male	30	63	7	30	64	4	26	67	5	33	59	6	29	63	7
Female	48	48	2	52	44	4	50	46	3	51	43	4	49	46	3
<b>Race</b>															
White	41	54	4	43	53	3	41	54	4	45	49	5	41	54	4
Black/other	37	54	5	38	53	6	33	61	3	35	58	6	38	52	7
<b>Age</b>															
18 to 20 years	20	69	9	21	74	5	26	74	0	23	71	6	36	56	8
21 to 29 years	22	73	5	26	71	2	25	70	5	28	67	4	27	68	3
30 to 49 years	34	62	4	35	60	4	32	63	4	38	57	4	30	65	4
50 years and older	36	60	4	40	55	4	36	60	4	32	61	7	59	33	6
<b>Education<sup>a</sup></b>															
College	33	62	5	38	58	4	32	63	4	37	58	4	34	59	5
High school graduate	44	52	3	42	54	4	43	53	3	46	47	5	43	53	4
Less than high school graduate	54	36	5	61	31	2	56	34	7	55	30	6	59	29	7
<b>Income</b>															
\$50,000 and over	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$30,000 to \$49,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
\$20,000 to \$29,999	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Under \$20,000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Occupation</b>															
Professional/business	35	60	4	40	55	4	35	59	4	40	54	4	37	58	4
Clerical	43	54	2	50	48	2	51	46	3	53	44	2	48	48	3
Manual	43	51	4	40	55	4	39	55	4	41	51	6	39	53	6
Farmer	55	39	6	60	40	0	38	58	5	56	31	12	44	38	12
<b>Region</b>															
Northeast	62	32	4	60	34	4	57	37	4	58	32	5	36	56	5
Midwest	40	54	4	42	54	3	39	55	5	45	48	3	39	56	4
South	43	51	4	47	48	4	43	52	4	48	45	5	44	49	6
West	42	53	5	38	58	4	39	55	4	44	52	4	40	56	4
<b>Religion</b>															
Protestant	44	50	4	47	49	3	43	53	3	48	46	4	46	50	4
Catholic	40	58	2	40	56	3	40	56	3	40	55	3	34	61	2
Jewish	19	77	4	18	71	10	20	65	15	13	65	17	24	71	6
None	21	70	9	24	66	8	16	71	11	21	64	12	22	59	16
<b>Politics</b>															
Republican	44	52	3	47	49	3	44	51	4	46	48	3	42	53	4
Democrat	44	51	4	44	50	4	41	54	4	44	49	6	44	51	5
Independent	35	58	6	37	59	3	34	61	4	39	54	5	34	58	5

Note: The "don't know" category has been omitted; therefore percents may not sum to 100.  
 Readers interested in responses to this question for previous years should consult previous  
 editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see  
[Appendix 5](#).

Source: National Opinion Research Center, "General Social Surveys, 1972-1998,"  
 Storrs, CT: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.  
 (Machine-readable data files.) Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff.

<sup>a</sup>Beginning in 1996, education categories were revised slightly and therefore are not directly  
 comparable to data presented for prior years.

1990			1991			1993			1994			1996			1998		
Laws forbidding distribution			Laws forbidding distribution			Laws forbidding distribution			Laws forbidding distribution			Laws forbidding distribution			Laws forbidding distribution		
What- ever the age	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distri- bution	What- ever the age	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distri- bution	What- ever the age	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distri- bution	What- ever the age	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distri- bution	What- ever the age	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distri- bution	What- ever the age	To persons under 18	No laws forbidding distri- bution
41%	52%	6%	40%	55%	4%	42%	54%	3%	37%	60%	3%	38%	58%	4%	38%	57%	4%
33	59	6	26	66	6	32	62	5	26	68	5	25	70	4	27	67	5
47	47	5	49	47	3	48	48	2	45	52	2	48	48	4	47	49	3
42	51	5	41	54	4	44	53	3	38	58	3	39	56	4	39	56	4
34	57	7	31	60	6	31	60	6	31	65	3	31	64	3	32	63	3
17	65	13	16	79	0	28	59	10	15	79	3	23	70	6	30	66	3
29	67	3	30	66	3	24	72	3	25	72	2	25	72	2	17	79	4
36	60	4	33	63	4	33	64	3	28	69	3	30	66	3	33	64	3
53	36	8	54	38	5	60	34	3	54	41	4	54	39	5	54	39	5
36	57	7	36	59	4	36	60	3	30	66	3	32	63	4	32	64	3
44	51	5	42	53	4	46	49	3	42	56	2	41	57	2	44	51	4
47	38	5	51	43	4	55	39	4	54	34	9	48	43	6	44	49	6
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	35	60	5	32	65	2	31	65	3	34	63	3
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37	60	2	34	63	3	34	62	3	39	57	4
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	41	53	4	35	60	4	39	56	4	32	65	2
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	47	49	2	41	55	3	39	54	4	42	51	6
38	55	6	35	60	4	38	58	3	32	64	3	34	62	4	35	61	4
47	50	4	45	51	4	48	48	4	43	55	1	41	56	3	45	50	4
40	52	5	41	53	4	42	54	3	35	61	4	38	57	3	35	60	3
35	59	6	25	65	5	42	53	5	38	52	5	45	47	3	52	48	0
32	62	5	34	61	3	38	56	5	32	63	4	34	60	5	32	62	5
38	54	7	41	54	5	40	56	3	34	63	2	40	56	3	40	57	3
49	44	5	39	54	5	47	49	2	43	53	3	42	53	3	41	54	4
38	55	6	44	53	3	38	57	4	32	64	3	30	65	4	36	60	4
46	48	5	43	52	3	49	47	2	43	54	2	45	51	3	46	50	3
39	56	4	38	58	4	35	62	3	32	66	2	30	65	4	33	62	4
20	53	20	4	82	9	20	80	0	20	76	5	24	63	11	19	72	6
22	66	9	18	66	11	15	75	9	17	75	7	18	73	6	18	74	6
43	50	5	43	54	2	52	45	3	43	55	2	43	53	4	43	53	3
44	47	7	38	55	4	41	55	3	36	61	2	36	59	4	37	58	4
34	60	5	38	56	5	35	60	4	33	63	4	35	61	3	36	59	4

Table 2.99

**Attitudes toward the legality of homosexual relations**

United States, selected years 1977-99

Question: "Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?"

	Legal	Not legal	No opinion
1977	43%	43%	14%
1982	45	39	16
1985	44	47	9
1986	33	54	13
1987	33	55	12
1989	47	36	17
1992	48	44	8
1996	44	47	9
1999	50	43	7

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll Monthly*, No. 375 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, December 1996), p. 13; and data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.100

**Attitudes toward the legality of homosexual relations**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?"

	Legal	Not legal	No opinion
National	50%	43%	7%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	45	47	8
Female	54	39	7
<u>Race</u>			
White	52	41	7
Black	39	53	8
Nonwhite <sup>a</sup>	43	51	6
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 29 years	61	34	5
30 to 49 years	53	41	6
50 to 64 years	50	42	8
50 years and older	41	49	10
65 years and older	30	58	12
<u>Education</u>			
College post graduate	69	25	6
College graduate	64	31	5
Some college	58	35	7
No college	37	55	8
<u>Income</u>			
\$75,000 and over	69	26	5
\$50,000 and over <sup>b</sup>	62	33	5
\$30,000 to \$49,999	52	41	7
\$20,000 to \$29,999	43	48	9
Under \$20,000	40	50	10
<u>Community</u>			
Urban area	54	40	6
Suburban area	53	39	8
Rural area	38	54	8
<u>Region</u>			
East	53	40	7
Midwest	50	42	8
South	40	53	7
West	61	33	6
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	43	52	5
Democrat	52	41	7
Independent	53	38	9

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>b</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.101

**Attitudes toward the legality of abortion**

United States, selected years 1975-99

Question: "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

	Always legal	Legal under certain circumstances	Never legal	No opinion
1975	21%	54%	22%	3%
1977	22	55	19	4
1979	22	54	19	5
1980	25	53	18	4
1981	23	52	21	4
1983	23	58	16	3
1988	24	57	17	2
April 1989	27	50	18	5
July 1989	29	51	17	3
1990	31	53	12	4
May 1991	32	50	17	1
September 1991	33	49	14	4
January 1992	31	53	14	2
June 1992	34	48	13	5
1993	32	51	13	4
March 1994	31	51	15	3
September 1994	33	52	13	2
1995	33	50	15	2
1996	25	58	15	2
1997	22	61	15	2
1998	23	59	17	1
1999	27	55	16	2

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Poll* (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, May 7, 1999), pp. 2-4. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.102

**Attitudes toward the legality of abortion**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1999

Question: "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?"

	Always legal	Legal under certain circumstances	Never legal	No opinion
National	27%	55%	16%	2%
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	23	57	15	5
Female	31	50	17	2
<u>Race</u>				
White	27	55	15	3
Black	28	46	22	4
Nonwhite <sup>a</sup>	29	49	19	3
<u>Age</u>				
18 to 29 years	29	50	18	3
30 to 49 years	32	53	12	3
50 to 64 years	24	58	14	4
50 years and older	20	57	19	4
65 years and older	16	55	25	4
<u>Education</u>				
College post graduate	35	53	8	4
College graduate	35	48	14	3
Some college	32	48	17	3
No college	19	60	18	3
<u>Income</u>				
\$75,000 and over	41	47	10	2
\$50,000 and over <sup>b</sup>	34	51	13	2
\$30,000 to \$49,999	28	59	11	2
\$20,000 to \$29,999	22	55	19	4
Under \$20,000	17	55	24	4
<u>Community</u>				
Urban area	33	48	15	4
Suburban area	29	53	15	3
Rural area	16	62	19	3
<u>Region</u>				
East	36	47	14	3
Midwest	24	56	17	3
South	18	59	19	4
West	36	50	12	2
<u>Politics</u>				
Republican	16	59	24	1
Democrat	31	49	15	5
Independent	31	54	12	3

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see Appendix 5.

<sup>a</sup>Includes black respondents.<sup>b</sup>Includes \$75,000 and over category.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

Table 2.103

**Attitudes toward legalization of doctor-assisted suicide**

By demographic characteristics, United States, 1997

Question: "When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to assist the patient to commit suicide if the patient requests it, or not?"

	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed	Don't know/ refused
National	53%	39%	8%
<u>Sex</u>			
Male	60	34	6
Female	47	43	10
<u>Race</u>			
White	57	35	8
Black	22	73	5
Nonwhite <sup>a</sup>	30	64	6
<u>Age</u>			
18 to 29 years	56	40	4
30 to 49 years	62	30	8
50 to 64 years	43	47	10
50 years and older	42	48	10
65 years and older	40	50	10
<u>Education</u>			
College post graduate	68	25	7
College graduate	58	38	4
Some college	57	35	8
No college	47	45	8
<u>Income</u>			
\$50,000 and over	66	29	5
\$30,000 to \$49,999	52	39	9
\$20,000 to \$29,999	48	44	8
Under \$20,000	38	55	7
<u>Community</u>			
Urban area	52	37	11
Suburban area	58	35	7
Rural area	47	47	6
<u>Region</u>			
East	64	27	9
Midwest	54	37	9
South	39	55	6
West	61	32	7
<u>Politics</u>			
Republican	46	46	8
Democrat	55	39	6
Independent	58	32	10

Note: For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

<sup>a</sup>Includes black respondents.

Source: Table constructed by SOURCEBOOK staff from data provided by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Reprinted by permission.

## Appendix 5

### Public opinion survey sampling procedures

Note: Information on Gallup survey sampling procedures was excerpted from George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Poll, Public Opinion 1934-1971, Vol. 1, 1935-1948* (New York: Random House, 1972), pp. vi-viii; George H. Gallup, *The Gallup Opinion Index*, Report No. 162 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll, January 1979), pp. 29, 30; George Gallup, *The Sophisticated Poll Watcher's Guide* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Opinion Press, 1976), p. 102; and from information provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by The Gallup Organization, Inc. Information on the Harris Poll survey sampling procedures was provided to SOURCEBOOK staff by Louis Harris and Associates, Inc.; similar procedures used in earlier surveys are described in Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., *The Harris Yearbook of Public Opinion 1970: A Compendium of Current American Attitudes* (New York: Louis Harris and Associates, Inc., 1971), pp. 511-514. Information on the survey procedures employed by the National Opinion Research Center was excerpted from the National Opinion Research Center, *General Social Surveys, 1972-1998: Cumulative Codebook* (Chicago: National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago, 1998), pp. v, vi, 56, 1119, 1120, 1131, 1357, 1358. Information on the Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll was excerpted from Stanley M. Elam and Lowell C. Rose, "The 27th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1995), p. 56; Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1996), p. 58; Lowell C. Rose, Alec M. Gallup, and Stanley M. Elam, "The 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kpoll97.htm> [Dec. 31, 1997]; and Lowell C. Rose and Alec M. Gallup, "The 30th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kp9809-a.htm> [Jan. 5, 1999]. Information on the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System was excerpted from Laura Kann et al., "Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance--United States, 1997," CDC Surveillance Summaries, *Morbidity and*

*Mortality Weekly Report* 47 SS-3 (Washington, DC: USGPO, Aug. 14, 1998).

The sampling procedures of five public opinion surveys or survey organizations are presented in this appendix: The Gallup Poll, the Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa Education Poll, the Harris Poll, the National Opinion Research Center, and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

#### GALLUP POLLS

All Gallup polls since 1950, excluding certain special surveys, have been based on a national probability sample of interviewing areas. Refinements in the sample design have been introduced at various points in time since then. However, over this period the design essentially has conformed to the current procedure, as described in the following paragraphs.

The United States is divided into seven size-of-community strata: cities of population 1,000,000 and over, 250,000 to 999,999, and 50,000 to 249,000, with the urbanized areas of all these cities forming a single stratum; cities of 2,500 to 49,999; rural villages; and farm or open country rural areas. Within each of these strata, the population is further divided into seven regions: New England, Middle Atlantic, East Central, West Central, South, Mountain, and Pacific Coast. Within each size-of-community and regional stratum the population is arrayed in geographic order and zoned into equal sized groups of sampling units. Pairs of localities in each zone are selected with probability of selection proportional to the size of each locality's population--producing two replicated samples of localities.

Within selected cities for which population data are reported by census tracts or enumeration districts, these sample subdivisions are drawn with probability of selection proportional to the size of the population. For other cities, minor civil divisions, and rural areas in the sample for which population data are not reported by census tracts or enumeration districts, small, definable geographic areas are drawn, with the probability of selection proportional to size where available data permit; otherwise with equal probability.

A block or block cluster is drawn with probability of selection proportional to the number of dwelling units from within each subdivision selected for which block statistics are available. In cities and towns for which block statistics are not available, blocks are drawn at random, that is, with equal probability. In subdivisions that are rural or open country in character, segments

approximately equal in size of population are delineated and drawn with equal probability.

In each cluster of blocks and each segment so selected, a randomly selected starting point is designated on the interviewer's map of the area. Starting at this point, interviewers are required to follow a given direction in the selection of households, taking households in sequence, until their assigned number of interviews has been completed. Within each occupied dwelling unit or household reached, the interviewer asks to speak to the youngest male 18 or older at home, or if no male is at home, the oldest female 18 or older. This method of selection within the household has been developed empirically to produce an age distribution by males and females separately which compares closely with the age distribution of the population. It increases the probability of selecting younger males, who are at home relatively infrequently, and the probability of reaching older females in the household who tend to be under-represented unless given a disproportionate chance of being drawn from among those at home. The method of selection among those at home within the household is not strictly random, but it is systematic and objective, and eliminates interviewer judgment in the selection process. Interviewing is conducted at times when adults are most likely to be at home, which means on weekends or if on weekdays, after 4 p.m. for females and after 6 p.m. for males. Allowance for persons not at home is made by a "times-at-home" weighting procedure rather than by "call-backs." This procedure is a standard method for reducing the sample bias that would otherwise result from under-representation of persons who are difficult to find at home.

The pre-stratification by regions is routinely supplemented by fitting each obtained sample to the latest available U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates of the regional distribution of the population. Also minor adjustments of the sample are made by educational attainment (for males and females separately), based on the annual estimates of the U.S. Bureau of the Census derived from their Current Population Survey. The sample procedure described is designed to produce an approximation of the adult civilian population living in the United States, except for those persons in institutions such as prisons or hospitals. The four regions of the country, as reported in Gallup public opinion surveys, have been defined in the following manner:

**East**--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, District of Columbia;

**Midwest**--Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa,

Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas;

**South**--Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas; and

**West**--Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska.

**Urbanization**--Central cities have populations of 50,000 and above. Suburbs constitute the fringe and include populations of 2,500 to 49,999. Rural areas are those that have populations of under 2,500.

**Race/ethnicity**--Nonwhite is comprised of individuals who report themselves as any combination of the following classifications: Hispanic, American Indian, Other Indian, Oriental, and Black. Black and Hispanic are subcategories of Nonwhite. However, due to variation in respondent reporting the category White may also include some Hispanics.

According to Gallup policy, if the interviewee does not hear or does not understand a question, the interviewer repeats the question and if on the second reading the person does not understand or does not get the point of the question, the interviewer checks the "no opinion" box. It should also be noted that seldom more than 10% of all those contacted refuse to be interviewed. Gallup Poll Surveys of a nationwide sample usually include approximately 1,000 respondents.

#### Sampling error

All sample surveys are subject to sampling error, that is, the extent to which the results may differ from those that would be obtained if the entire population surveyed had been interviewed. The size of sampling errors depends largely on the number of interviews. The following table may be used in estimating sampling error. The computed allowances have taken into account the effect of the sample design upon sampling error. They may be interpreted as indicating the range (plus or minus the figure shown) within which the results of repeated samplings in the same time period could be expected to vary, 95% of the time, assuming the same sampling procedure, the same interviewers, and the same questionnaire.

Recommended allowance for sampling error (plus or minus) at 95% confidence level

(Percent)

Percent-ages	Sample size					
	1,000	750	600	400	200	100
10	2	3	3	4	5	7
20	3	4	4	5	7	9
30	4	4	4	6	8	10
40	4	4	5	6	8	11
50	4	4	5	6	8	11
60	4	4	5	6	8	11
70	4	4	4	6	8	10
80	3	4	4	5	7	9
90	2	3	3	4	5	7

The table would be used in the following manner: Assume a reported percentage is 33 for a group which includes 1,000 respondents. Proceed to row "Percentages near 30" in the table and then to the column headed, "1,000." The figure in this cell is four, which means that at the 95% confidence level, the 33% obtained in the sample is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus four points.

Data from The Gallup Organization, Inc. that appear in this edition of SOURCEBOOK are from Gallup Polls conducted on the following dates; sample sizes appear in parentheses. For tables in which trend data appear, the dates of the most recent survey are provided.

Most important problem, table 2.1--May 23-24, 1999 (1,050)  
 Confidence in institutions, tables 2.16-2.19--June 25-27, 1999 (1,016)  
 Honesty and ethics, tables 2.21-2.25--Nov. 6-9, 1997 (1,003)  
 Level of crime, tables 2.33-2.36--Oct. 23-25, 1999 (1,013)  
 Fear of walking alone, table 2.37--Aug. 22-25, 1997 (1,014)  
 Death penalty, tables 2.52, 2.58, 2.59--Feb. 8-9, 1999 (1,054)  
 Gun ownership, tables 2.60, 2.61--Feb. 8-9, 1999 (1,054)  
 Gun control measures, table 2.66--June 11-13, 1999 (1,022)  
 Gun laws, table 2.70--May 23-24, 1999 (1,050)  
 Legality of homosexuality, tables 2.99, 2.100--Feb. 8-9, 1999 (1,054)  
 Legality of abortion, tables 2.101, 2.102--Apr. 30-May 2, 1999 (1,014)  
 Doctor-assisted suicide, table 2.103--Jan. 3-5, 1997 (502)  
 Alcohol use, tables 3.103-3.108--June 26-29, 1997 (1,013)

## PHI DELTA KAPPA/GALLUP POLL

The Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup polls are modified probability samples of adults 18 years of age and older living in the United States. The 1995 sample was comprised of 1,311 adults; interviewing took place May 25-June 15, 1995. The 1996 sample was comprised of 1,329 adults; interviewing took place May 2-22, 1996. The 1997 sample was comprised of 1,517 adults; interviewing took place June 3-22, 1997. The 1998 sample was comprised of 1,151 adults; interviewing took place June 5-23, 1998. The data collection design employed the Gallup Organization's standard national telephone sample, i.e., an unclustered, directory-assisted, random-digit telephone sample, based on a proportionate stratified sampling design. "Nonpublic school parents" includes parents of students who attend parochial schools, private schools, or independent schools. For further information on the survey sampling procedures see Lowell C. Rose and Alec M. Gallup, "The 30th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," Phi Delta Kappa [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kp9809-a.htm> [Jan. 5, 1999].

## HARRIS SURVEYS

Harris surveys are based on a national sample of the civilian population of the continental United States. Alaska and Hawaii are not represented in the sample, nor are those in prisons, hospitals, or religious and educational institutions. The sample is based on census information on the population of each State in the country, and on the population living in standard metropolitan areas and in the rest of the country. These population figures are updated by intercensal estimates produced annually by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and sample locations are selected biennially to reflect changes in the country's demographic profile.

National samples are stratified in two dimensions--geographic region and metropolitan (and non-metropolitan) residence. Stratification insures that the samples will reflect, within 1%, the actual proportions of those living in the country in different regions and metropolitan (and non-metropolitan) areas. Within each stratum the selection of the ultimate sampling unit is achieved through a series of steps, a process that is technically called multi-stage unclustered sampling. Each sampling unit yields one interview. First States, then counties, and then minor civil divisions (cities, towns, townships) are selected with probability proportional to census estimates of their respective household populations.

The Harris Survey has four of these national samples, and they are used in rotation from study to study. The specific sample locations in one study generally are adjacent to those used in the next study. For most surveys covering the entire country, more than one national sample may be employed. Harris Surveys of a nationwide sample usually include approximately 1,250 respondents.

All interviews prior to 1978 were conducted in person, in the homes of respondents. At each household the respondent was chosen by means of a random selection pattern, geared to the number of adults of each sex who live in the household. Interviews lasted approximately 1 hour. Almost all interviews conducted as of 1978 have been telephone interviews. Respondents are selected on the basis of random digit dialing. When the completed interviews are received in New York, a subsample of the respondents are re-contacted to verify that the data have been accurately recorded. Questionnaires are edited and coded in the New York office. The Harris sampling procedure is designed to produce a national cross-section that accurately reflects the actual population of the country 18 years of age and older living in private households. This means that the results of a survey among a national sample can be projected as representative of the country's civilian population 18 years of age and older.

Harris Survey national results are reported for the East, Midwest, South, and West regions of the country, defined as follows:

**East**--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia;

**Midwest**--North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio;

**South**--Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas; and

**West**--Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico.

#### Sampling error

The results of the surveys are subject to sampling error, i.e., the difference between the results obtained from the sample and those that would be obtained by surveying the entire population. The size of a possible sampling error varies to some extent with the size of the sample and with the percentage giving a particular answer. The following table sets forth the range of error in samples of different sizes and at different percentages of response.

For example, if the response for a sample size of 1,200 is 30%, in 95 cases out of 100 the response in the population will be between 27% and 33%. This error accounts only for sampling error. Survey research also is susceptible to other errors, such as data handling and interview recording.

Recommended allowance for sampling error (plus or minus) at 95% confidence level

Re- sponse percent	Sample size					
	1,600	1,200	900	500	250	100
10(90)	2	2	2	3	5	7
20(80)	2	3	3	4	6	10
30(70)	3	3	4	5	7	11
40(60)	3	3	4	5	7	12
50	3	3	4	5	8	12

Data from Louis Harris and Associates, Inc. that appear in this edition of SOURCEBOOK are from Harris Polls conducted on the following dates; sample sizes appear in parentheses. For tables in which trend data appear, the dates of the most recent survey are provided.

Most important issue for government, table 2.2--Apr. 8-13, 1999 (1,006)

Confidence in institutions, table 2.15--Jan. 7-12, 1999 (1,008)

Police performance and fairness, tables 2.26, 2.28, 2.29--Mar. 19-23, 1999 (1,008)

Causes of violence, table 2.43--June 10-15, 1999 (1,006)

Death penalty, tables 2.53, 2.54--July 15-20, 1999 (1,015)

Gun ownership and gun control, tables 2.64, 2.68, 2.69--June 10-15, 1999 (1,006)

#### NATIONAL OPINION RESEARCH CENTER

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) maintains a national probability sample. The General Social Surveys (GSS) are interviews administered to the NORC national samples using a standard questionnaire. They have been conducted during February, March, and April from 1972 to 1978, 1980, 1982 to 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, and 1998. There are a total of 38,116 completed interviews (1,613 in 1972; 1,504 in 1973; 1,484 in 1974; 1,490 in 1975; 1,499 in 1976; 1,530 in 1977; 1,532 in 1978; 1,468 in 1980; 1,506 and an oversample of 354 blacks in 1982; 1,599 in 1983; 1,473 in 1984; 1,534 in 1985; 1,470 in 1986; 1,466 and an oversample of 353 blacks in 1987; 1,481 in 1988; 1,537 in 1989; 1,372 in 1990; 1,517 in 1991; 1,606 in 1993; 2,992 in 1994; 2,904 in 1996; and 2,832 in 1998). Sampling frames are based on 1970 census information for surveys conducted in 1972-78, 1980, and 1982. For all interviews conducted from

1984-91, the national sampling frame was based on 1980 census information. A split sample transition design was used in the 1983 survey. One-half of the sample was drawn from the 1970 frame and one-half from the 1980 frame. Again in 1993, a split sample transaction design was employed on the 1993 survey to measure the effect of switching from the 1980 sample frame to the 1990 sample frame. Half the sample was drawn from each frame. Since 1973, the median length of the interview has been about one and a half hours. This study employed standard field procedures for national surveys, including interviewer hiring and training by area supervisors in interviewing locations when necessary.

Each survey is an independently drawn sample of English-speaking persons 18 years of age and older, living in non-institutional arrangements within the United States. Alaska and Hawaii are not included in samples drawn from the 1970 sampling frame, but are represented in one-half of the 1983 surveys and all those conducted from 1984-98. Block quota sampling was used in the 1972, 1973, and 1974 surveys and for half of the 1975 and 1976 surveys. Full probability sampling was employed in half of the 1975 and 1976 surveys and in all of the surveys conducted subsequent to 1976.

The sample is a multi-stage area probability sample to the block or segment level. At the block level, quota sampling is used with quotas based on sex, age, and employment status. The cost of the quota samples is substantially less than the cost of a full probability sample of the same size, but there is, of course, the chance of sample biases mainly due to not-at-homes which are not controlled by the quotas. However, in order to reduce this bias, the interviewers are given instructions to canvass and interview only after 3:00 p.m. on weekdays or during the weekend or holidays. The first stage of sample selection includes selection of the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). The PSUs employed are Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs) or nonmetropolitan counties selected in NORC's Master Sample. These SMSAs and counties were stratified by region, age, and race before selection. The units of selection of the second stage were block groups (BGs) and enumeration districts (EDs). These EDs and BGs were stratified according to race and income. The third stage of selection was that of blocks, which were selected with probabilities proportional to size. In places without block statistics, measures of size for the blocks were obtained by field counting. The average cluster size is five respondents per cluster.

The quotas call for approximately equal numbers of males and females with the exact proportion in each segment determined by the 1970 census tract data. For women, the additional requirement is imposed that there be the proper proportion of employed and unemployed females in the location. Again, these quotas are based on the 1970 census tract data. For males, the added requirement is that there be the proper proportion of males over and under age 35 in the location. Past experience suggests that, for most purposes, this quota sample of 1,500 could be considered as having about the same efficiency as a simple random sample of 1,000 cases.

The 1975 and 1976 studies were conducted with a traditional sample design, one-half full probability and one-half block quota. The sample was divided into two parts for several reasons: (1) to provide data for possibly interesting methodological comparisons; and (2) on the chance that there are some differences over time, that it would be possible to assign these differences to either shifts in sample designs, or changes in response patterns. Having allowed for the appearance of all items in the transitional sample design, the GSS then switched to a full probability sample beginning with the 1977 survey.

#### Rotation

Since its inception the GSS employed a *rotation design* under which most of its items appeared on two out of every three surveys. While this design proved to be useful for both monitoring change and augmenting the content of the GSS, it had the disadvantage of irregularly spacing the data and allowing gaps in the time series. This situation was particularly acute during 1978-82 because of the lack of funding for surveys in 1979 and 1981. At that juncture 4-year gaps regularly appeared in the data and 6-year lapses existed for bivariate correlations between items from different rotations. Even with annual surveys 2-year gaps and 3-year intervals for bivariate correlations occur. To reduce this imbalance in the time series and reduce the length of intervals, in 1988 the rotation, across-time design previously used was changed to a *split-ballot design*. Under this design rotations 1, 2, and 3 occur across random sub-samples within each survey rather than across surveys (and years). Each sub-sample (known as ballots) consists of 1/3 of the sample. Permanent items are not affected by this switch. They continue to appear on all cases for all surveys. Rotating items now appear on all surveys and are asked of two-thirds of respondents on each survey. Over a 3-year cycle the same number of respondents are asked the "rotating" items as before (3,000), but instead of coming in two segments of

1,500 each from two surveys, they appear in three segments of 1,000 each from three surveys.

The 1993 GSS was the last survey conducted under this design. In 1994 two major innovations were introduced to the GSS.

First, the traditional core was substantially reduced to allow for the creation of mini-modules (i.e. blocks of about 15 minutes devoted to some combination of small- to medium-sized supplements). The mini-modules space provides greater flexibility to incorporate innovations and to include important items proposed by the social science community.

Second, a new biennial, split-sample design was used. The sample consists of two parallel sub-samples of approximately 1,500 cases each. The two sub-samples both contain the identical core. The A sample also contains a standard, topical module, the mini-modules, and an International Social Survey Program (ISSP) module (on women, work, and the family). The B sample has a second topical module, mini-modules, and an ISSP module (on the environment). In effect, one can think of the A sample as representing a traditional GSS for 1994 and the B sample representing a traditional GSS for 1995. Rather than being fielded separately in two different years they are fielded together.

Beginning in 1996, and in subsequent even-numbered years, the same design described for 1994 was repeated. In addition, in 1994 only, a transitional design was utilized to calibrate any impact of deletions from the core.

Survey results are reported for four regional categories, with the States classified in the following way:

**Northeast**--Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont;

**North Central**--Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin;

**South**--Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia;

**West**--Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

## YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) is conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and monitors priority health risk behaviors among youth and adults. The 1997 national school-based survey, a component of the YRBSS, employed a three-stage cluster sample design to produce a nationally representative sample of students in grades 9 through 12. The first-stage sampling frame contained 1,719 primary sampling units (PSUs), consisting of large counties or groups of smaller, adjacent counties. From the 1,719 PSUs, 54 were selected from 16 strata formed on the basis of the degree of urbanization and the relative percentage of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students in the PSU. The PSUs were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. At the second sampling stage, 191 schools were selected with probability proportional to school enrollment size. To enable separate analysis of black and Hispanic students, schools with substantial numbers of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students were sampled at higher rates than were all other schools. The third stage of sampling consisted of randomly selecting one or two intact classes of a required subject (e.g., English or social studies) from grades 9 through 12 at each chosen school. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate in the study. The school response rate was 79% and the student response rate was 87%, for an overall response rate of 69%. A total of 16,262 questionnaires were completed in 151 schools.

A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for nonresponse and for the varying probabilities of selection, including those resulting from the oversampling of black (non-Hispanic) and Hispanic students. Numbers of students in racial/ethnic groups other than white (non-Hispanic), black (non-Hispanic), and Hispanic were too low for meaningful analysis. The weights were scaled so that the weighted count of students was equal to the total sample size and so that the weighted proportions of students in each grade matched national population proportions.

The data are representative of students in grades 9 through 12 in public and private schools in the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

## Appendix 6

### Monitoring the Future Survey methodology and definitions of terms

Note: The following information was excerpted from Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, **Monitoring the Future 1995** (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, 1997), pp. 2-11, 13, 14; Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, **National Survey Results on Drug Use From the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1998**, Volumes I and II (Washington, DC: USGPO, forthcoming); and information provided by the Monitoring the Future Project. Non-substantive editorial adaptations have been made.

#### Survey methodology

The basic research design involves annual data collections from high school seniors during the spring of each year, beginning with the class of 1975. Each data collection takes place in approximately 130 public and private high schools selected to provide an accurate cross-section of high school seniors throughout the coterminous United States.

Since 1986, the results of a followup survey of those young adults 1 to 10 years beyond high school have been presented. These results should accurately characterize approximately 85% of the young adults in the class cohorts 1 to 10 years beyond high school who are high school graduates. The high school dropout segment, missing from the senior year surveys, also is missing from the followup segments.

Also since 1980, the results of followup surveys of those high school students who have continued on to college have been presented. The college sample is limited to the most typical one for college attendance: 1 to 4 years past high school, which corresponds to the modal ages of 19 to 22 years old. This age category should encompass about 75% of all students enrolled in college full-time.

#### Sampling procedures

The procedure for securing a nationwide sample of high school seniors is a multi-stage one. Stage 1 is the selection of particular geographic areas, Stage 2 is the selection of one or more high schools in each area, and Stage 3 is the selection of seniors within each high school.

**Stage 1: Geographic areas.** The geographic areas used in this study are the primary sampling units (PSUs) developed by the Sampling Section of the Survey Research Center (SRC) for use in the Center's nationwide interview studies. These consist of 74 primary areas throughout the coterminous United States—including the 12 largest metropolitan areas, which contain about 30% of the Nation's population. Of the 62 other primary areas, 10 are in the Northeast, 18 in the North Central area, 24 in the South, and 10 in the West. Because these same PSUs are used for personal interview studies by the SRC, local field representatives can be assigned to administer the data collections in practically all schools.

**Stage 2: Schools.** In the major metropolitan areas more than one high school is often included in the sampling design; in most other sampling areas a single high school is sampled. In all cases, the selections of high schools are made such that the probability of drawing a school is proportionate to the size of its senior class. The larger the senior class (according to recent records), the higher the selection probability assigned to the high school. When a sampled school is unwilling to participate, a replacement school as similar to it as possible is selected from the same geographic area.

**Stage 3: Students.** Within each selected school, up to about 400 seniors may be included in the data collection. In schools with fewer than 400 seniors, the usual procedure is to include all of them in the data collection. In larger schools, a subset of seniors is selected either by randomly sampling classrooms or by some other random method that is convenient for the school and judged to be unbiased. Sample weights are assigned to each respondent so as to take account of variations in the sizes of samples from one school to another, as well as the (smaller) variations in selection probabilities occurring at the earlier stages of sampling.

The three-stage sampling procedure described above yielded the number of participating schools and students indicated in Table 1.

One limitation in the design is that it does not include in the target population those young men and women who drop out of high school before graduation (or before the last few months of the senior year, to be more precise). This excludes a relatively small proportion of each age cohort—between 15 and 20%. This is not an unimportant segment, since certain behaviors such as illicit drug use and delinquency tend to be higher than average in this group. However, the addition of a representative sample of dropouts would increase the cost of the present research enormously, because of

their dispersion and generally higher level of resistance to being located and interviewed.

For the purposes of estimating characteristics of the entire age group, the omission of high school dropouts does introduce certain biases; however, their small proportion sets outer limits on the bias. For the purposes of estimating changes from one cohort of high school seniors to another, the omission of dropouts represents a problem only if different cohorts have considerably different proportions who drop out. The Source has no reason to expect dramatic changes in those rates for the foreseeable future, and recently published government statistics indicate a great deal of stability in dropout rates since 1970.

Some may use the high school data to draw conclusions about changes for the entire age group. While the Source does not encourage such extrapolation, the Source suspects that the conclusions reached often would be valid, since over 80% of the age group is in the surveyed segment of the population and the Source expects that changes among those not in school are very likely to parallel the changes among those who are. Nevertheless, for purposes of characterizing the entire age group the Source would urge the user to check the results emanating from the present monitoring system against those emerging from other data collection systems using different methods, such as household interviews.

One other important feature of the base-year sampling procedures should be noted. All schools (except for half of the initial 1975 sample) are asked to participate in two data collections, thereby permitting replacement of half of the total sample of schools each year. One motivation for requesting that schools participate for 2 years is administrative efficiency; it is a costly and time-consuming procedure to secure the cooperation of schools, and a 2-year period of participation cuts down that effort substantially. Another important advantage is that whenever an appreciable shift in scores from one graduating class to the next is observed, it is possible to check whether the shift might be attributable to some differences in the newly sampled schools. This is done simply by repeating the analysis using only the 60 or so schools that participated both years. Thus far, the half-sample approach has worked quite well; and examination of drug prevalence data from the "matched half-samples" shows that the half samples of repeat schools yielded drug prevalence trends that were virtually identical to trends based on all schools.

## Questionnaire administration

The questionnaire administration in each school is carried out by the local SRC representatives and their assistants, following standardized procedures detailed in a project instruction manual. The questionnaires are administered in classrooms during normal class periods whenever possible, although circumstances in some schools require the use of larger group administrations. Teachers are not asked to do anything more than introduce the SRC staff members and (in most cases) remain in the classroom to help guarantee an orderly atmosphere for the survey. Teachers are urged to avoid walking around the room, so that students may feel free to write their answers without fear of being observed.

The actual process of completing the questionnaires is quite straightforward. Respondents are given sharpened pencils and asked to use them because the questionnaires are designed for automatic scanning. Most respondents can finish within a 45-minute class period; for those who cannot, an effort is made to provide a few minutes of additional time.

## Content areas and questionnaire design

Drug use and related attitudes are the topics that receive the most extensive coverage in the Monitoring the Future Project; but the questionnaires also deal with a wide range of other subject areas, including attitudes about government, social institutions, race relations, changing roles for women, educational aspirations, occupational aims, and marital and family plans, as well as a variety of background and demographic factors. The list below provides an outline of the 20 general subject areas into which all items are categorized. Given this breadth of content, the study is not presented to respondents as a "drug use study," nor do they tend to view it as such.

### Measurement content areas

**A. Drugs.** Drug use and related attitudes and beliefs, drug availability and exposure, surrounding conditions and social meanings of drug use. Views of significant others regarding drugs.

**B. Education.** Educational lifestyle, values, experiences, and environments.

**C. Work and leisure.** Vocational values, meaning of work and leisure, work and leisure activities, preferences regarding occupational characteristics and type of work setting.

**D. Sex roles and family.** Values, attitudes, and expectations about marriage, family structure, sex roles, and sex discrimination.

**E. Population concerns.** Values and attitudes about overpopulation and birth control.

**F. Conservation, materialism, equity, etc.** Values, attitudes, and expectations related to conservation, pollution, materialism, equity, and the sharing of resources. Preferences regarding type of dwelling and urbanicity.

**G. Religion.** Religious affiliation, practices, and views.

**H. Politics.** Political affiliation, activities, and views.

**I. Social change.** Values, attitudes, and expectations about social change.

**J. Social problems.** Concern with various social problems facing the Nation and the world.

**K. Major social institutions.** Confidence in and commitment to various major social institutions (business, unions, branches of government, press, organized religion, military, etc.).

**L. Military.** Views about the armed services and the use of military force. Personal plans for military service.

**M. Interpersonal relationships.** Qualitative and quantitative characteristics of cross-age and peer relationships. Interpersonal conflict.

**N. Race relations.** Attitudes toward and experiences with other racial groups.

**O. Concern for others.** Concern for others; voluntary and charitable activities.

**P. Happiness.** Happiness and life satisfaction, overall and in specific life domains.

**Q. Other personality variables.** Attitudes about self (including self-esteem), locus of control, loneliness, risk-taking, trust in others, importance placed on various life goals, counter-culture orientation, hostility.

**R. Background.** Demographic and family background characteristics, living arrangements.

**S. Deviant behavior and victimization.** Delinquent behaviors, driving violations and accidents (including those under the influence of drugs), victimization experiences.

**T. Health.** Health habits, somatic symptoms, medical treatments.

Because many questions are needed to cover all of these topic areas, much of the questionnaire content was divided into five different questionnaire forms in 1976-88 and six different questionnaire forms for 1989 and beyond, which are distributed to participants in an ordered sequence that produces virtually identical subsamples. About one-third of each questionnaire form consists of key or "core" variables that are common to all forms. All demographic variables and some measures of drug use are included in this "core" set of measures. This use of the full sample for drug and demographic measures provides a more accurate estimation on these dimensions and also makes it possible to link them statistically to all of the other measures that are included in a single form only.

### Representativeness and validity

The samples for this study are intended to be representative of high school seniors throughout the 48 coterminous States. As previously mentioned, this definition of the sample excludes one important portion of the age cohort: those who have dropped out of high school before nearing the end of the senior year. But given the aim of representing high school seniors, it is useful to consider the extent to which the obtained samples of schools and students are likely to be representative of all seniors and the degree to which the data obtained are likely to be valid.

There are at least four ways in which survey data of this sort might fall short of being fully accurate. First, some sampled schools refuse to participate, which could introduce some bias. Second, the failure to obtain questionnaire data from 100% of the students sampled in participating schools would also introduce bias. Third, the answers provided by participating students are open to both conscious and unconscious distortions, which could reduce validity. Finally, limitations in sample size and/or design could place limits on the accuracy of estimates.

### School participation

As noted in the description of the sampling design, schools are invited to participate in the study for a 2-year period. With very few exceptions, each school that has participated for one data collection has agreed to participate for a second. Thus far, approximately 65% of the schools initially invited to participate have agreed to do so each year; for each school refusal, a similar school (in terms of size, geographic area, urbanicity, etc.) was recruited as a replacement.

The selection of replacement schools almost entirely removes problems of bias in region, urbanicity, and the like that might result from certain schools refusing to participate. Other potential biases are more subtle, however. For example, if it turned out that most schools with "drug problems" refused to participate, that could seriously bias the drug estimates derived from the sample. And if any other single factor was dominant in most refusals, that also might suggest a source of serious bias. In fact, however, the reason for schools' refusals to participate are varied and largely a function of happenstance events of the particular year. Thus, there is a fair amount of confidence that school refusals have not seriously biased the surveys.

### **Student participation**

Completed questionnaires are obtained from approximately 82% of all students sampled. The single most important reason that students are missed is that they are absent from class at the time of data collection, and in most cases it is not workable to schedule a special followup data collection for them.

In addition to absenteeism, student nonparticipation occurs because of schedule conflicts with school trips and other activities that tend to be more frequent than usual during the final months of the senior year. Of course, some students refuse to complete or turn in a questionnaire. However, the SRC representatives in the field estimate this proportion to be only about 1%.

### **Research design for the surveys of lower grades**

Beginning in 1991 the study was expanded to include nationally representative samples of eighth and tenth grade students. In general, the procedures used for the annual surveys of eighth and tenth grade students closely parallel those used for high school seniors, including the procedures for selecting schools and students, questionnaire administrations, and questionnaire formats. A major exception is that only two different questionnaire forms were used in 1991-96 and four forms were used in 1997, rather than the six forms used with seniors. Identical forms are used for both eighth and tenth grades, and, for the most part, questionnaire content is drawn from the twelfth grade questionnaires. Thus, key demographic variables and measures of drug use and related attitudes and beliefs are generally identical for all three grades. Fewer questions about lifestyles and values are included in these forms than in the twelfth grade forms, in part because it is believed that many of these attitudes are more likely to be formed by twelfth grade, and therefore are best monitored there. For the national survey of eighth graders, approximately 160

schools are sampled, and approximately 18,000 to 19,000 students are surveyed. For the tenth graders, approximately 130 schools are sampled, and approximately 16,000 students are surveyed.

### **Research design for the followup surveys after high school**

Beginning with the graduating class of 1976, each class is followed up and surveyed each year after high school for seven followup data collections. From the approximately 15,000 to 17,000 seniors originally participating in a given class, a representative sample of 2,400 individuals was chosen for followup. In order to ensure sufficient numbers of drug users in the followup surveys, those fitting certain criteria of current drug use (that is, those reporting 20 or more uses of marijuana or use of any of the other illicit drugs in the previous 30 days) were selected with higher probability (by a factor of 3.0) than the remaining seniors. Differential weighting is used in all followup analyses to compensate for the differential sampling probabilities.

The 2,400 selected respondents from each class were randomly assigned to one of two matching groups of 1,200 each; one group was surveyed on even-numbered calendar years, while the other group was surveyed on odd-numbered years. This biannual procedure was intended to reduce respondent burden.

### **Followup procedures**

Using information provided by respondents at the time of the senior survey (name, address, phone number, and the name and address of someone who would always know how to reach them), students selected for the panels were contacted by mail. Newsletters were sent each year, and name and address corrections were requested. Questionnaires were sent by certified mail in the spring of each year. A check for \$5.00 made out to the respondent was attached to the front. Beginning with the class of 1992, the followup checks have been raised to \$10.00 to compensate for the effects of inflation over the life of the study. Reminder letters and post cards went out at fixed intervals thereafter and finally, those not responding received a prompting phone call from the Survey Research Center's phone interviewing facility in Ann Arbor. If requested, a second copy of the questionnaire was sent.

### **Panel retention rates**

To date the panel retention rates have remained quite high. In the first followup after high school, about 80% of the original

panel returned questionnaires. The retention rate decreases ordinarily with time; however, the 1998 panel retention from the class of 1984--the oldest of the panels, now age 32 (14 years past their first data collection in high school)--is 54%.

Since attrition is to a modest degree associated with drug use, corrections to the prevalence estimates are presented for the followup panels. These raise the prevalence estimates from what they would be uncorrected, but only slightly. It is believed that the resulting estimates are the most accurate obtainable, but still low for the age group as a whole due to the omission of dropouts and absentees from the population covered by the original panels.

### **Validity of self-report data**

Survey measures of delinquency and of drug use depend upon respondents reporting what are, in many cases, illegal acts. Thus, a critical question is whether such self-reports are likely to be valid. Like most studies dealing with these areas, there is no direct, objective validation of the present measures; however, the considerable amount of inferential evidence that exists strongly suggests that the self-report questions produce largely valid data. A number of factors suggest a reasonable amount of confidence about the validity of the responses to what are presumably among the most sensitive questions in the study: a low nonresponse on the drug question, a large proportion admitting to some illicit drug use, the consistency of findings across several years of the present study, strong evidence of construct validity (based on relationships observed between variables), a close match between these data and the findings from other studies using other methods, and the findings from several methodological studies that have used objective validation methods.

### **Accuracy of the sample**

A sample survey never can provide the same level of accuracy as would be obtained if the entire target population were to participate in the survey--in the case of the present study, about 2.8 million seniors per year. But perfect accuracy of this sort would be extremely expensive and certainly not worthwhile considering the fact that a high level of accuracy can be provided by a carefully designed probability sample. The accuracy of the sample in this study is affected both by the size of the student sample and by the number of schools in which they are clustered. Virtually all estimates based on the total sample have confidence intervals of plus or minus 1.5 percentage points or smaller--sometimes considerably smaller.

## Interpreting racial differences

Data are given for the two largest racial/ethnic subgroups in the population--those who identify themselves as white or Caucasian and those who identify themselves as black or African-American. Data are not given for the other ethnic categories (American Indians, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, or other Latin Americans) since each of these groups comprises a small percentage of the sample in any given year, which means that their small N's (in combination with their clustered groupings in a limited number of schools) would yield estimates that would be too unreliable. In fact, even blacks--who constitute approximately 12% of each year's sample--are represented by only 350 to 425 respondents per year on any single questionnaire form. Further, because the sample is a stratified clustered sample, it yields less accuracy than would be yielded by a pure random sample of equal size. Therefore, because of the limited number of cases, the margin of sampling error around any statistic describing blacks is larger than for most other subgroups described in this survey.

There are factors in addition to unreliability, however, that could be misleading in the interpretation of racial differences. Given the social importance that has been placed on various racial differences reported in the social science literature, the reader is cautioned to consider the various factors that could account for differences. These factors fall into three categories: differential representation in the sample, differential response tendencies, and the confounding of race with a number of other background and demographic characteristics.

**Differential representation--**A smaller segment of the black population than of the white population of high school age is represented by the data contained here. Insofar as any characteristic is associated with being a school dropout or absentee, it is likely to be somewhat disproportionately underrepresented among blacks in the sample.

**Differential response tendencies--**In examining the full range of variables, certain racial differences in response tendencies were noted. First, the tendency to state agreement in response to agree-disagree questions is generally somewhat greater among blacks than among whites.

There also is a somewhat greater than average tendency for black respondents to select extreme answer categories on attitudinal scales. For example, even if the same proportion of blacks as whites felt positively (or negatively) about some subject, fewer of

the whites are likely to say they feel very positively (or very negatively). In the process of interpreting racial differences, the reader should be aware that differences in responses to particular questions may be related to these more general tendencies.

A somewhat separate issue in response tendency is a respondent's willingness to answer particular questions. An exaggerated missing data rate for black males on the set of questions dealing with the respondent's own use of illicit drugs has been observed. Clearly a respondent's willingness to be candid on such questions depends on his or her trust of the research process and of the researchers themselves. The reader is advised to check for exceptional levels of missing data when making comparisons on any variable in which candor is likely to be reduced by lower system trust. One bit of additional evidence related to trust in the research process is that higher proportions of blacks than whites indicated that if they had used marijuana or heroin they would not have been willing to report it in the survey.

**Covariance with other factors--**Some characteristics such as race are highly confounded (correlated) with other variables--variables that may in fact explain some observed racial differences. Put another way, at the aggregate level one might observe a considerable racial difference on some characteristic, but once one controls for some background characteristics such as socioeconomic level or region of the country--that is, comparing the black respondents with whites who come from similar backgrounds--there may be no racial difference at all.

## Definitions of terms

**Drug types--**Definitions or identifiers used in survey forms include:

- Marijuana--pot, grass or hashish;
- Other psychedelics--mescaline, peyote, psilocybin, PCP;
- Amphetamines--uppers, pep pills, bennies, speed;
- Quaaludes--quads, methaqualone;
- Barbiturates--downers, goofballs, reds, yellows;
- Heroin--smack, horse;
- Other narcotics--methadone, opium, codeine, paregoric;
- Inhalants--glue, aerosols, laughing gas;
- Tranquilizers--Librium, Valium, Miltown.

Beginning with the 1979 survey, amyl and butyl nitrites were considered "other inhalants" for questions on one alternate survey form (N=one-fifth of total sample size in 1979-88 and N is one-sixth of total sample size in 1989-98). This was due to the fact that not all users of this subclass of inhalants were reporting themselves as inhalant users. Hallucinogen use had been

similarly underestimated because some users of the hallucinogenic drug PCP do not report themselves as users of hallucinogens--even though PCP was included as an example of a hallucinogenic drug in earlier surveys and on other questions. The alternate questionnaire form contained a special set of questions about PCP, that provided other street names for it (e.g., angel dust). As a result of these definition changes, since 1979 data for drug use in these two drug classes have been adjusted for underreporting. For more information, see the Source.

**Four-year college plans--**Percentage distributions are given separately for (1) respondents who indicate that they "definitely will" or "probably will" graduate from a four-year college program and (2) those who say that they "definitely won't" or "probably won't" graduate from a four-year college program. Respondents not responding are omitted from both columns. A number of those who do not expect to complete a four-year college program do expect to get some post-secondary education.

**Illicit drug use: Lifetime--**Percentage distributions are given separately for five mutually exclusive subgroups differentiated by their degree of involvement with illicit drugs. Eligibility for each category is defined below.

**None--**This column contains data from those respondents who indicated that they had not used marijuana at any time and did not report use of any of the following illicit drugs in their lifetime: LSD, other psychedelics, cocaine, amphetamines, tranquilizers, methaqualone, barbiturates, heroin, or other narcotics.

**Marijuana only--**This column contains data from other respondents who indicated that they had used marijuana (or hashish) but had never used any of the other illicit drugs just listed.

**Few pills--**This column contains data from those respondents who indicated having used one or more of the above listed drugs (other than marijuana) but who had not used any one class of them on three or more occasions and who had not used heroin at all.

**More pills--**This column contains data from respondents who had used any of the above listed drugs (other than marijuana) on three or more occasions but who had never used heroin.

**Any heroin--**This column contains data from those respondents who indicated having used heroin on one or more occasions in their lifetime.

**Race--**Percentage distributions are given separately for those describing themselves as "white or Caucasian" and "black or African-American." Comparable columns for the other racial or ethnic groups

(Mexican Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians, etc.) are not shown because of the low number of cases in each group.

**Region**--Percentage distributions are given separately for respondents living in each of four mutually exclusive regions of the country. The regional classifications are based on U.S. Bureau of the Census categories and are defined as follows:

**Northeast**--Census classifications of New England and Middle Atlantic States; includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

**North Central**--Census classifications of East North Central and West North Central States; includes Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

**South**--Census classifications of South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central States; includes Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

**West**--Census classifications of Mountain and Pacific States; includes Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, and California.

**Sex**--Percentage distributions are given separately for males and females. Respondents with missing data on the question asking the respondent's sex are omitted from both groupings.

**Weighted number of cases (N)**--The number of cases is stated in terms of the weighted number of respondents rather than the actual number, since all percentages have been calculated using weighted cases. The actual number of respondents is about 15% higher than the weighted number for data collected in 1975, 1976, and 1977. For data collected in 1978 or later, the actual number of respondents is roughly equal to the weighted number. Weighting is used to improve the accuracy of estimates by correcting for unequal probabilities of selection, which arise in the multi-stage sampling procedures. Table 3 presents the number of weighted cases for each subgroup of the high school seniors samples.

**Table 1.** Sample sizes and student response rates for high school seniors

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Number of public schools	115	113	117	113	111	114	117	120	121	119	120	118	125	124
Number of private schools	17	16	18	19	22	23	19	18	18	20	24	21	21	20
Total number of schools	132	129	135	132	133	137	136	138	139	139	144	139	146	144
Actual number of participating students <sup>a</sup>	16,502	15,713	16,843	16,795	17,142	15,676	15,483	16,251	16,763	15,929	15,876	14,824	15,963	15,780
Student response rate (percent) <sup>b</sup>	84	83	84	83	86	86	83	84	84	84	84	83	83	82

<sup>a</sup>Sample weights are assigned to each respondent to correct for unequal probabilities of selection that arise in the multi-stage sampling procedure.

<sup>b</sup>The student response rate is derived by dividing the attained sample by the target sample (both based on weighted numbers of cases). The target sample is based upon listings provided by schools. Because such listings may fail to take account of recent student attrition, the actual response rate may be slightly underestimated.

**Table 2.** Sample size and student response rates for eighth and tenth grades

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<u>Tenth grade</u>								
Number of public schools	107	106	111	116	117	113	113	110
Number of private schools	14	19	17	14	22	20	18	19
Total number of schools	121	125	128	130	139	133	131	129
Total number of participating students <sup>a</sup>	14,996	14,997	15,516	16,080	17,285	15,873	15,778	15,419
Student response rate (percent) <sup>b</sup>	87	88	86	88	87	87	86	87
<u>Eighth grade</u>								
Number of public schools	131	133	126	116	118	122	125	122
Number of private schools	31	26	30	34	34	30	27	27
Total number of schools	162	159	156	150	152	152	152	149
Total number of participating students <sup>a</sup>	17,844	19,015	18,820	17,708	17,929	18,368	19,066	18,667
Student response rate (percent) <sup>b</sup>	90	90	90	89	89	91	89	88

<sup>a</sup>Sample weights are assigned to each respondent to correct for unequal probabilities of selection that arise in the multi-stage sampling procedure.

<sup>b</sup>The student response rate is derived by dividing the attained sample by the target sample (both based on weighted numbers of cases). The target sample is based upon listings provided by schools. Because such listings may fail to take account of recent student attrition, the actual response rate may be slightly underestimated.

**Table 3.** Weighted sample sizes in subgroups for high school seniors, by year

	Class of 1986	Class of 1987	Class of 1988	Class of 1989	Class of 1990	Class of 1991	Class of 1992	Class of 1993	Class of 1994	Class of 1995	Class of 1996	Class of 1997	Class of 1998
Total sample	15,713	16,843	16,795	17,142	15,676	15,483	16,251	16,251	15,389	15,876	14,824	15,963	15,780
<u>Sex</u>													
Male	7,261	7,912	7,861	8,156	7,862	7,617	7,582	7,582	6,918	7,293	6,806	7,269	7,286
Female	7,855	8,340	8,342	8,471	7,241	7,277	8,053	8,053	7,957	7,891	7,261	7,793	7,618
<u>Race</u>													
White	11,713	12,478	12,051	12,250	11,410	10,754	11,029	11,029	10,656	11,012	9,890	10,210	10,280
Black	1,649	1,708	2,063	2,038	1,614	1,757	2,244	2,244	1,671	1,693	1,719	2,001	1,885
<u>Region</u>													
Northeast	3,720	3,611	3,348	3,305	3,358	2,862	2,887	2,887	2,695	2,881	3,122	3,405	2,952
North Central	4,440	4,489	4,435	4,589	4,284	4,089	4,529	4,529	4,031	4,380	3,878	4,249	3,948
South	4,855	5,431	5,753	6,255	5,262	5,330	5,787	5,787	5,636	5,593	5,345	5,469	5,928
West	2,698	3,313	3,260	2,992	2,773	3,202	3,048	3,048	3,027	3,022	2,479	2,839	2,952
<u>College plans</u>													
Complete 4 years	9,291	10,465	10,774	11,108	10,245	10,402	11,339	11,339	11,064	11,396	10,954	11,226	11,260
None or under 4 years	5,277	5,135	4,822	4,889	4,332	4,089	3,813	3,813	3,424	3,351	2,746	3,342	3,157
<u>Illicit drug use</u>													
None	6,535	7,188	7,606	8,253	8,006	8,464	9,441	9,441	8,395	7,996	7,101	7,054	7,024
Marijuana only	3,125	3,514	3,605	3,374	2,901	2,657	2,523	2,523	2,854	3,255	3,254	3,835	3,818
Few pills	2,223	2,142	2,133	2,057	1,872	1,742	1,757	1,757	1,736	1,756	1,654	1,708	1,710
More pills	3,264	3,410	2,896	2,889	2,380	2,128	1,974	1,974	2,221	2,247	2,149	2,532	2,443
Any heroin	161	203	186	222	194	141	199	199	171	250	263	320	301

Note: Data for 1986-88 are based on five questionnaire forms; N's for one-form questions are approximately one-fifth of the total sample N. Data for 1989-98 are based on six questionnaire forms; N's for one-form questions are approximately one-sixth of the total sample N.

## Appendix 7

### National Household Survey on Drug Abuse Survey methodology

Note: The following information was excerpted from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, **National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population Estimates 1997** (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1998), pp. 1-13; and **National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1997** (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999), pp. 8-14, Appendices A, B, D, E. Non-substantive editorial adaptations have been made.

#### Survey methodology

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA) is a series of annual national surveys measuring the prevalence of drug, alcohol, and tobacco product use among the American household population age 12 and older. Estimates of drug use prevalence for the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States are presented.

The NHSDA is based on a stratified, multistage area probability sample. A national probability sample of dwelling units was selected in 1997 from the same 115 primary sampling units (PSUs) used in 1995 and 1996, plus a total of 18 supplemental PSUs from Arizona and California. PSUs are defined as counties or groups of counties, such as metropolitan areas. As did the 1991-96 NHSDAs, the 1997 sample design used a composite size measure methodology and a specially designed within-dwelling unit selection procedure to meet specified precision constraints for subgroups defined by age and minority group membership. The sample design oversampled blacks, Hispanics, and young people to improve the accuracy of estimates for those populations. In addition, beginning in the second quarter of the 1997 NHSDA, residents of Arizona and California were oversampled to provide direct survey estimates for these State populations. Sampling involved several selection stages: the selection of primary areas (e.g., counties), subareas (blocks or block groups) within these primary areas, sample dwelling units within subareas, age domains within sampled dwelling units,

and eligible residents (if any) within the sampled age domains.

The target population included all civilian residents of households (including civilians residing on military installations) and noninstitutional group quarters (e.g., college dormitories, homeless shelters, rooming houses) 12 years of age and older. Persons excluded from the universe include military personnel on active duty, transient populations (such as homeless people who do not reside in shelters), and residents of institutional group quarters (e.g., jails, hospitals, etc.). Data collection was continuous over the calendar year with approximately one-fourth of the sample allocated to each quarter.

Survey data were collected through personal visits to each selected residence. Introductory letters are mailed to each residence, explaining the survey prior to the interviewer's visit. To reduce the number of required screenings, two selections per household were allowed. Approximately 101,000 listings were screened to identify sufficient dwelling units to yield the Hispanic and black age-domain samples. In each selected dwelling unit, a roster recording the age, race/ethnicity, and gender of all household members aged 12 and older was completed. Two, one, or no household members were selected to be interviewed using a random sampling procedure, with selection probabilities based on the race/ethnicity of the head of household and the ages of household members. The procedure was designed to ensure adequate sample sizes for the four age groups (12 to 17, 18 to 25, 26 to 34, and 35 or older) and the three racial/ethnic groups (Hispanic, black, and white). Selected individuals were then asked if they would complete a voluntary interview. NHSDA field representatives conducted the interviews using a paper and pencil questionnaire that included both interviewer-administered questions and self-administered answer sheets (for collection of sensitive information). All screening and interview responses are kept confidential.

In 1997, a total of 31,290 eligible dwelling unit members were selected for an interview; of these, a total of 24,505 interviews were completed. Response rates for screening and interviewing were 92.7% and 78.3%, respectively.

Age and race/ethnicity were the two primary correlates of drug use on which the samples were stratified. The sample design ensured adequate sample sizes for four age groups (12 to 17, 18 to 25, 26 to 34, and 35 and older) and three race/ethnicity groups. This oversampling allowed certain subgroups to be large enough to support estimation.

Based on the respondents' self-classifications the race/ethnicity groups were classified as: (1) Hispanic in origin, regardless of race; (2) white, not of Hispanic origin; and (3) black, not of Hispanic origin. As defined, these groups are mutually exclusive. Those who did not identify themselves as Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, or non-Hispanic black were included in the category "other." This includes American Indians, Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, Asians, and other groups. Separate estimates are not provided for this category because the sample size is too small.

The NHSDA surveys have used basically the same multistage area probability sample design that has been employed since the 1988 survey. However, in some survey years, oversampling was used to meet specified precision constraints for certain subpopulations. The 1993 through 1997 NHSDAs oversampled Hispanics in areas of high Hispanic concentration to reduce survey costs. In addition, the 1993 through 1995 NHSDAs oversampled cigarette smokers ages 18 to 34.

During the 1997 study, data from a special supplemental sample were collected beginning with the second quarter of data collection. This supplemental sample was designed to increase the number of respondents who reside in California and Arizona in order to measure the impact of voter initiatives to legalize certain drugs for medical purposes. Of the 24,505 interviews completed for 1997, 5,223 interviews were conducted in California and 4,577 were conducted in Arizona. The final sample weights for NHSDA respondents were appropriately adjusted to account for this supplemental sample, thereby eliminating any potential bias in estimates that might otherwise exist.

A revised questionnaire and editing procedure were introduced beginning with the 1994 NHSDA. Data for 1994 through 1997 presented in SOURCEBOOK are based on the new questionnaire; data for years prior to 1994 presented in SOURCEBOOK have been adjusted by the Source in order to facilitate trend presentations (see discussion on next page).

In addition, beginning in 1991, the survey differs from previous years in two ways: Alaska and Hawaii were included in the sample and some individuals living in group quarters (e.g., civilians living on military installations, individuals living in college dormitories, rooming houses, and homeless shelters) were included.

#### Development of weights

An analysis weight was calculated for each completed interview to reflect selection probabilities and to compensate for

nonresponse and undercoverage. Poststratification adjustments are made to force the respondent weight totals to equal U.S. Bureau of the Census projections for the civilian, noninstitutionalized population according to age group, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. Each weight can be viewed as the number of U.S. population members that the responding sample member represents.

**Table 1** 1997 NHSDA sample size and U.S. population represented, by demographic characteristics

	1997	
	Sample	Population
Total	24,505	216,206,090
<u>Sex</u>		
Male	10,836	104,017,297
Female	13,669	112,188,792
<u>Race, ethnicity</u>		
White	12,443	161,168,830
Black	4,639	24,405,541
Hispanic	6,259	21,577,831
Other	1,164	9,053,889
<u>Age</u>		
12 to 17	7,844	22,547,092
18 to 25	6,239	27,690,997
26 to 34	4,387	35,245,502
35 years and older	6,035	130,722,499
<u>Region</u>		
Northeast	2,905	40,341,528
North Central	3,255	48,355,568
South	7,554	81,231,438
West	10,791	46,277,555

Note: Sample size is the unweighted number of respondents in the 1997 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. These 1997 population projections are based on the 1990 U.S. Bureau of the Census counts.

### Adjusting for nonresponse through imputation

The prevalence estimates are based on the total sample or all cases in a subgroup, including some cases for which missing data for some recency-of-use and frequency-of-use variables were replaced with logically or statistically imputed (replaced) values. Prior to determining the completeness of a case, an editing procedure is implemented to check for inconsistencies and to determine if missing information is retrievable by using other information in the questionnaire. Logical imputation also is employed to replace other inconsistent, missing, or invalid data. Determination of completeness of a case is then made. To be classified as a minimally complete interview, and

therefore included in the database, data on the recency of use of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine had to have been provided by the respondent or logically imputed from other answers supplied by the respondent.

For some key variables that still had missing values after the application of logical imputation, statistical imputation was used to replace the missing responses with appropriate valid response codes. Data still missing for recency-of-use questions (for drugs other than alcohol, cocaine, and marijuana) were statistically imputed using a technique known as "hot deck imputation." The first step in this procedure involves sorting the data file progressively using data on recency-of-use of alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine; age; sex; Hispanic origin; and race. The hot deck imputation procedure replaces a missing item on a particular record by the last encountered nonmissing response for that item (from a previous record) on the sorted database. This procedure is appropriate for recency-of-use and demographic variables because the level of item nonresponse is low. Missing data for personal and family income items and the frequency-of-use-in-the-past-12-months for alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine are statistically imputed using a logistic regression-based method of imputation. The potential for bias due to item nonresponse or imputation is minimal because item nonresponse is less than 2% for drug use recency questions.

### Sampling error and confidence intervals

In the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, as in every sample survey, there is some degree of statistical uncertainty or error. The estimates provided are subject to uncertainties of two types: nonsampling and sampling errors. Some sources of nonsampling error are recording and coding errors, differences in respondents' interpretations of questions, and purposely false answers. Nonsampling errors cannot be quantified, however, rigorous attempts are made to minimize their occurrence through pretesting, interviewer training and evaluation, interview verification, coder training, coding verification, and other quality control measures.

Sampling errors denote the random fluctuations that occur in estimates when a sample of the population is drawn rather than conducting a complete census. Different samples drawn using the same procedures from the same population would be expected to result in different estimates. Many of these observed estimates would differ to some degree from the "true" population value and these differences are due to sampling error. Sampling errors are

quantified by way of confidence intervals. Asymmetrical 95% confidence intervals are calculated for all estimated proportions and corresponding population estimates.

### Regions

**North Central**--Includes the East North Central States--Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin; and the West North Central States--Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

**Northeast**--Includes the New England States--Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; and the Middle Atlantic States--New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania.

**South**--Includes the South Atlantic States--Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia; the East South Central States--Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee; and the West South Central States--Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.

**West**--Includes the Mountain States--Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming; and the Pacific States--Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.

### Adjustment procedures for trend data

Beginning in 1994, the NHSDA began using an improved questionnaire and estimation procedure based on a series of studies and consultations with drug survey experts and data users. When the new questionnaire was introduced in 1994, a supplemental sample was selected for use with the old methodology (i.e., a questionnaire identical to previous years). This provided the capability to assess the impact of the new questionnaire and to measure the effects of the change in methodology. Because this new methodology produces estimates that are not directly comparable to previous estimates, the 1985-93 NHSDA estimates presented in tables 3.82-3.84 were adjusted to account for the new methodology that was begun in 1994. The substance use prevalence estimates, for nearly all of the substances presented, were adjusted using a simple ratio correction factor. The simple ratio correction factor measured the effect of the new methodology, relative to the old methodology, using data from the 1993 and 1994 NHSDAs. For the remaining substances, the prevalence estimates were adjusted by using a model-based method. Similar to the ratio adjustment, this method of adjusting previous estimates models the combined effect of all measurement error differences between the new and old methodologies.